



LES PARADOXES
DU VIVANT

THE PARADOXES
OF THE LIVING

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OR

PRODUCTION, CREATION, ARCHITECTURE,

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NEYRAT, ROLAND SCHNEIDER, FRANÇOIS KÉPES, GILLES BOEUR, MARION
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REVUE DIENNALE - 29 EURO

**START
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**THE
PAPER
DOX
OF THE
LIFE**

LES
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Depuis sa création, *Stream* est un outil d'exploration et d'analyse des grands enjeux contemporains, au premier rang desquels la question environnementale, l'avenir de notre planète, notre avenir, qu'incarne la notion d'Anthropocène. En analysant pour *Stream 03* l'évolution de l'urbanisation globale depuis le début du XXI^e siècle, nous avons été poussés au-delà du simple constat de notre condition urbaine vers celui plus implacable encore de notre entrée dans une ère où l'homme devenait force géologique. Malgré les débats formels, la prise de conscience de notre responsabilité et de l'ampleur des défis est maintenant générale, invitant à considérer de nouvelles façons d'habiter la Terre. Se dessinait au fil de nos échanges et recherches l'image d'une évolution ontologique des relations de l'homme à la nature. Non pas des ajustements, mais bien un basculement profond, le renversement radical des dualismes sujet-objet et société-nature aux racines de la modernité occidentale. Comment envisager ce monde complexe, cette condition hybride, incertaine? Nous constatons que pour une génération d'artistes et d'architectes expérimentaux la figure du vivant devenait une source d'émulation et d'inspiration, non selon le modèle classique du biomorphisme formel mais par analogie avec ses processus génératifs. Poursuivant la quête des manières de cohabiter au sein de notre planète – plutôt que de chercher à la dominer à tout prix – *Stream04* part de l'idée que ce paradigme du vivant est la clé de nos défis

contemporains, que la compréhension de nos relations paradoxales à ce dernier permettra de concevoir des

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Se tourner vers le vivant est une façon de ne pas subir l'Anthropocène, de ne pas rester figé face à une condition qui impose au contraire de trouver la position pour agir au-delà des dualismes modernes en articulant de nouvelles relations au vivant, paradoxales et parfois antagonistes. Prendre en considération le vivant, penser et construire avec et pour la nature est notre nouvelle frontière. Nous avons gagné une humilité en tant qu'homme, nous n'avons plus de droit naturel et

nous craignons les conséquences de nos actes, mais la situation nous force paradoxalement à considérer des moyens d'intervenir. Mais selon quelle représentation de la nature, suivant quelles approches, méthodes et

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Il s'agit de comprendre si la figure du vivant peut dépasser le registre de la métaphore pour constituer une réalité scientifique à la fois soutenable philosophiquement et source de solutions concrètes. À l'exception de leur frange expérimentale, l'architecture et l'urbanisme, concernés au premier chef par ces enjeux, n'ont pas les outils intellectuels et techniques adaptés à cette révolution anthropologique. *Stream 04* exprime donc un état des lieux de ce que la connaissance du vivant apporte à la fabrique de la ville. À la manière des précédents *Stream*, ce recueil de paroles prospectives explorera l'ensemble des champs traitant du vivant,

les philosophes autour de l'évolution de nos rapports à la nature, les biologistes sur les avancées de la connaissance du vivant, les chercheurs au sujet de l'impact urbain des nouvelles technologies, les paysagistes pour le rôle de la nature dans la ville, les architectes autour des nouvelles formes et *process* durables ou les artistes pour leurs expériences de création avec le vivant. *Stream* les invite à aborder le sujet autour de trois thématiques principales : l'évolution de la place de l'homme par rapport au reste du vivant, ses rapports aux autres êtres et à la biodiversité ; les limites mêmes du vivant, aujourd'hui bousculées, hybridées par les développements des technologies numériques, des nano-biotechnologies et de l'intelligence artificielle ; les conséquences urbaines du passage d'une vision machinique de la ville à des analogies organiques et physiologiques qui réactivent des approches métaboliques complexes de celle-ci.

Quels sont les fondamentaux théoriques et philosophiques de la métaphore du vivant ? Quels croisements s'opèrent à la frontière des savoirs et des technologies, des théories et des pratiques ? Quel rôle pour le numérique dans ces nouvelles alliances ? Comment les artistes travaillent-ils avec le vivant ? De quelle façon les paysagistes, architectes, urbanistes et l'ensemble des concepteurs techniques prennent-ils la mesure de ces mutations scientifiques, écologiques et sociales ? Quelles leçons tirer des processus du vivant pour penser la croissance et l'hybridité des villes ?

Comment concevoir autrement l'ensemble des artefacts pour revisiter la relation onto-géographique de l'humanité à son territoire ?

Entre nouvelles technologies et révolution de la pensée, les réponses du vivant à un monde globalisé et perturbé posent les jalons de l'entrée dans une ère de la responsabilité et du bien commun, du « faire avec » plutôt que du « faire contre », où le pilotage se substitue à la maîtrise. Dans la réinvention de sa manière d'occuper et d'habiter, l'homme établit de nouveaux partenariats, en particulier avec le vivant, comme modèle, outil et allié. Notre futur repose sur ces modalités d'interactions qui passent par une considération et compréhension du vivant, mais aussi par la recherche de façons d'agir sur lui, de l'orienter sans l'enfermer, de lui donner un cadre durable sans le dominer, d'initier avec lui des processus

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EDITORIAL

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Since its inception, *Stream* has been a tool for the exploration and the analysis of the major issues of our time, at the forefront of which is the environment, the future of our planet and our own, which are at the core of the idea of the Anthropocene. In *Stream 03* our analysis of the evolution of global urbanization during the twenty-first century had taken us further than the simple observation of our urban condition to the even more implacable fact of our entry into the era of mankind as a geophysical force. Despite the more formal debates, the awareness and understanding of both our responsibilities and the scope of the challenges we face has become generalized, inviting us to consider new ways of inhabiting the Earth. Throughout our research and exchanges, a picture of the ontological relationship between mankind and nature started to appear. Not a picture of the adjustments made, but one of a profound shift, the radical overthrow of the subject-object and society-nature dualisms that are at the root of Western

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How can we grasp this complex world, this uncertain and hybrid condition? We had observed that for a generation of experimental artists and architects, the model of the living had become a source of inspiration and emulation, not through the classical notion of biomorphism, but through an analogy of its generative processes. In a quest to determine new ways of cohabiting on our planet—rather than trying to dominate it at all costs—the starting point for *Stream 04* is the idea that this paradigm of the living is the key to today's challenges, that understanding our paradoxical relation to this model will allow us to find lasting solutions.

By observing the living, we are not passive victims of the Anthropocene. This allows us to not be frozen in the face of a condition which, on the contrary, requires us to find the position to act beyond the modern dualisms by coming up with new, paradoxical, and sometimes antagonistic relationships with the living world. Taking the living into consideration, thinking and building with and for nature, these are our new frontiers. As human beings, we have gained in humility, we have no more privileges, and we fear the consequences of our actions, but the situation is such that it paradoxically forces us to examine

ways in which we can intervene. But based on which representation of nature, according to which approach,

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We must try to comprehend the way in which the idea of the living can grow beyond the simple metaphor and become a scientific reality that is both philosophically

sustainable and a source of tangible solutions. Despite being directly concerned with these issues, architecture and urbanism—with the exception of their experimental fringes—do not have the proper intellectual and technical tools to grasp this anthropological revolution.

Stream 04 is therefore a report, an observation of how the knowledge of the living affects the urban fabric. Like its predecessors, this issue is a collection of prospecting texts that explore the many fields that deal with the living. The philosophers deal with the evolution of our relationship with nature, the biologists with the breakthroughs of our understanding of the living, the researchers with the impact of new technologies on the urban domain, the urban planners with the role of nature in the city, the architects around new shapes and sustainable processes, and the artists with their experiences of creation with the living.

Stream has invited them all to tackle this subject around three main themes: mankind's evolution in comparison to other living things and its relationship with biodiversity and other beings; the limits of the living, those that are being shaken up, hybridized by the development of digital technologies, nano-biotechnologies, and artificial intelligence; and the consequences on the urban landscape of the shift from a machine-oriented vision to one of organic and physiological analogies that reactivate its complex metabolic approaches.

What are the theoretical and philosophical foundations of the metaphor of the living? At the

crossroads of knowledge and technology, theory and practice, what is being exchanged? What role does the digital world have to play in these new alliances? How do artists work with the living? Landscapers, architects, town

planners, all these designers of technologies, how do they take the measure of these scientific, environmental, and social mutations? What lessons can be learned from the processes of the living to foresee the city's growth and hybridization? How can we find new ways of grasping all artefacts to allow us to revisit the onto-geographical relationship of humanity with its territory?

The answers of the living to a disrupted and globalized world, at the border between new technology and a revolution in thinking, lay the groundwork for an era of responsibility and common good, an era of "working with" rather than "working against," an era where piloting replaces domination. Mankind, in rethinking how it occupies and inhabits, establishes new partnerships, especially with the living, taking it is a model, a tool, an ally. Our future rests upon these modes of interaction based on a regard and an understanding of the living, but also upon researching new ways of influencing it, orienting it without confining it, giving it a lasting setting without dominating it, initiating new processes with it that are hybrid and evolving.

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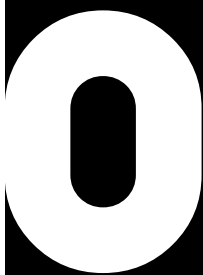
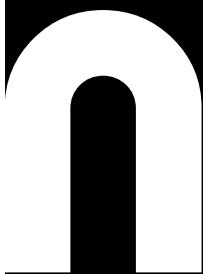
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As its vehicle for action and for the understanding of the world, *Stream 04* has chosen to explore the representation of the living. To leave the Anthropocene behind is an invitation to act beyond modern dualities, establishing new relationships with the living, ones that are paradoxical and sometimes antagonistic, which we must attempt to understand with philosophers or scientists. By

questioning the fascination for human power underlying the notion of the Anthropocene, Catherine and Raphaël Larrère have taken the “working with” approach, one that is intimately related to the relationship between mankind and nature. On the other hand, the philosophical school of thought developed by Graham Harman, Object-Oriented Ontology (OOO), is in opposition to the holistic vision of a globally interrelated world. Yet it does belong to a general reframing of our anthropologically centered world-view by formulating the idea that humans and objects are ontologically equal. Timothy Morton, another proponent of OOO, insists upon the profound non-violence toward self and others that this ontological equality embodies. This vision would be a source of domination

free relationships, something of a symbiosis. However, Frédéric Neyrat, inspired by a new existentialism that would allow us to forego humanism, calls for “non-symbiotic” alliances. No longer in the center, a species among

other species, mankind can take inspiration from the other areas of the living world, especially to detect, according to Roland Schaer, the imperative need to make and become a habitat for others. To reevaluate our relationship with nature we need a greater understanding of the living, which is why we need to look toward biologists. For François Képès, understanding the living's characteristics will allow us to not fall into a Manichean conception of our actions upon it, but also to develop a better grasp of the breadth of the eco-systemic advantages that nature gives us. Gilles Boeuf thus invites us to find in nature an ally, most notably through the improvement of urban biodiversity. The reintroduction of the living in urban spaces, currently a very popular idea, raises symbolic and practical issues for urban planners and philosophers alike. The city, this tangible living space, is a mental frame of representation, as Pierre Musso stipulates when detailing the evolutions of urban imagination, from the machine to the organism, while Marion Waller

develops the notion of “natural artefacts” to embody urban practices that limit the urban/nature conflict. Thus, for Chris Younès, with the living starts to appear the outline of a city that is built on the dynamics of the architecture of the milieu, a concept at the heart of Mesology, as theory developed by Augustin Berque, that insists upon the importance of respecting the milieu by creating new urban shapes that stem from a place’s history and what Berque calls its “mediance.” The understanding and limitations of the representation of the living vary, but are always at the core of contemporary thought, inviting an evolution of our cities’ designs through the conjunction of complex approaches, as prefigured by the

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Stream 04 a choisi d'explorer la figure du v
compréhension du monde. Le dépasseme
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parfois antagonistes, qu'il nous faut cherch
et des scientifiques. Remettant en cause la
sous la notion d'Anthropocène, Catherine
démarches du « faire avec », selon une app
à la nature. L'Ontologie Orientée Objet, cou
Harman, prends néanmoins le contre-piec
interrelation globale. Elle participe pourta
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Frédéric Neyrat appelle pour sa part à des
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pour repenser notre rapport à la nature, no
les biologistes. En comprendre les caracté
Képès d'éviter les manichéismes dans la c
celui-ci, mais aussi de réaliser l'ampleur de
la nature, Gilles Boeuf nous invitant ainsi à
l'enrichissement de la biodiversité urbaine
Largement en vogue aujourd'hui, la réintég
pose des questions à la fois symboliques e
les philosophes. Espace de vie concret, la v
de représentation, comme l'analyse Pierre
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Chris Younès sur les dynamiques d'une arc
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respecter le milieu en créant de nouvelles
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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, women made up 40% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 50%. This increase in the number of women in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of women in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, people with disabilities made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people with disabilities in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people with disabilities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, people from ethnic minorities made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 50 years of age. In 1980, people over 50 years of age made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people over 50 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 50 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 25 years of age. In 1980, people under 25 years of age made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people under 25 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 25 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 65 years of age. In 1980, people over 65 years of age made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people over 65 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 65 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 16 years of age. In 1980, people under 16 years of age made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people under 16 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 16 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 75 years of age. In 1980, people over 75 years of age made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people over 75 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 75 years of age in the workforce.

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Habiter, de l'hospitalité du vivant

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Inhabiting, Hospitality of the Living

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Manipuler le vivant ?

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« Artefacts naturels » et écosystèmes

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La Ville « vivante » ou la ville texte

The "Living" City or the Text City

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« Renaturer » l'architecture

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De la « médiance » des lieux

From "Mediance" to Places

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Métabolismes urbains : conjuguer des

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33 COMMAHRECS

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Catherine Larrère est philosophe, professeure émérite à Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, spécialiste de philosophie politique et environnementale

Raphaël Larrère est ingénieur agronome et sociologue, ancien directeur de recherche à l'INRA, spécialiste du rapport des hommes avec la nature et la technique.

Ils sont notamment les auteurs de

Penser et agir avec la nature, une enquête philosophique, Du bon usage de la nature, pour une philosophie de l'environnement et Bulles technologiques.

Vers une éthique du pilotage

entretien avec Catherine et Raphaël Larrère

PHILIPPE CHIAMBARETTA :

Pour faire le lien avec le troisième numéro de la revue Stream, paru il y a deux ans, pourriez-vous nous expliquer pourquoi vous remettez en cause la définition de l'Anthropocène comme « époque géologique » et ce que représente ce terme pour vous ?

CATHERINE LARRÈRE :

Anthropocène est un terme paradoxal. Donner le nom des humains à une époque géologique – puisque *ánthrōpos* signifie « homme » en grec ancien – ce n'est pas seulement dire qu'une nouvelle époque vient de succéder à la précédente, c'est innover dans la façon de la qualifier. Les noms des époques faisaient auparavant référence à des indications temporelles ou pédo-géologiques. Holocène signifie « entièrement récente », le Jurassique fait allusion à la chaîne du Jura et le Carbonifère

à la présence de charbon par exemple. L'entrée dans l'Anthropocène signifierait deux choses : des changements suffisamment importants pour que l'on puisse parler d'une nouvelle époque sont observables, et ce sont les hommes qui en sont responsables. Mais en choisissant de dire cette époque humaine, on court deux risques : faire comme s'il n'y avait plus que de l'humain, comme si l'humain avait absorbé la nature, et comme si c'était quelque chose dont on pouvait se glorifier. Le terme d'Anthropocène a été très critiqué et d'autres appellations ont été proposées – Capitalocène ou Technocène, par exemple. Mais du point de vue de la disparition de la nature, cela revient au même : parler de « Technocène », c'est dire que la terre est de part en part transformée par la

STREAM
02

La place prise par l'homme dans l'évolution de la planète pose d'urgentes questions d'éthique et de responsabilité. Au travers de leur travail de philosophie environnementale, Catherine et Raphaël Larrère remettent en cause dans la notion d'Anthropocène comme époque géologique, qui relève d'une fascination pour la puissance humaine. Plus symbolique que scientifique, la notion est d'abord le support de récits antagonistes, entre quête de davantage de manipulation ou vision catastrophiste de l'effondrement. En opposition au sentiment de maîtrise, ils développent une réflexion autour des grands paradigmes de la technique, prônant une exploration des possibles par le « pilotage », une démarche du « faire avec » consistant à initier, utiliser et orienter des processus naturels. Il s'agit d'avoir l'humilité du pilote et de l'éleveur plutôt que l'arrogance de l'ingénieur et du fabricant. Saisir la nature non comme substance, extérieure à l'homme, mais de façon relationnelle, leur permet de développer une éthique du soin de ce qui n'est pas nous sans relever de l'extériorité radicale.

1. Catherine et Raphaël Larrère, *Penser et agir avec la nature, une enquête philosophique*, La Découverte, Paris, 2015.

2. Catherine et Raphaël Larrère, *Du bon usage de la nature, pour une philosophie de l'environnement*, Aubier, Paris, 1997 ; rééd. Flammarion, « Champs », Paris, 2009.

3. Catherine et Raphaël Larrère, *Bulles technologiques*, Wildproject, Marseille, 2017.

Vers
une
éthique
du
pilotage
Catherine
et
Raphaël
Larrère

P

C

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*Pour
faire*

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avec
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numéro
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Stream,
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ans,
pourriez-vous
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expliquer
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cause
la
définition
de
l'Anthropocène
comme
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époque
géologique
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et
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que
représente
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terme
pour
vous
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C*

L

:
Anthropocène
est
un
terme
paradoxal.

Donner
le
nom
des
humains
à

une
époque
géologique
—puisque
ánthrôpos
signifie
«homme»
en
grec
ancien—
ce
n'est
pas
seulement
dire
qu'une
nouvelle
époque
vient
de
succéder
à

la
précédente,
c'est
innover
dans
la
façon
de
la
qualifier.

Les
noms
des
époques
faisaient
auparavant
référence
à
des
indications
temporelles
ou

pédo-géologiques.

Holocène

signifie

«

entièrement

récente

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le

Jurassique

fait

allusion

à

la

chaîne

du

Jura

et

le

Carbonifère

à

la

présence

de
charbon
par
exemple.
L'entrée
dans
l'Anthropocène
signifierait
deux
choses
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des
changements
suffisamment
importants
pour
que
l'on
puisse
parler
d'une
nouvelle

époque
sont
observables,
et
ce
sont
les
hommes
qui
en
sont
responsables.
Mais
en
choisissant
de
dire
cette
époque
humaine,
on
court

deux
risques
:
faire
comme
s'il
n'y
avait
plus
que
de
l'humain,
comme
si
l'humain
avait
absorbé
la
nature,
et
comme
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c'était
quelque
chose
dont
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pouvait
se
glorifier.
Le
terme
d'Anthropocène
a
été
très
critiqué
et
d'autres
appellations
ont
été
proposées
—Capitalocène

ou
Technocène,
par
exemple.

Mais
du
point
de
vue
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la
disparition
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la
nature,
cela
revient
au
même
:
parler
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«
Technocène
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c'est
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transformée
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la
La
place
prise
par
l'homme
dans
l'évolution

de
la
planète
pose
d'urgentes
questions
d'éthique
et
de
responsabilité.

Au
travers
de
leur
travail
de
philosophie
environnementale,

Catherine
et
Raphaël
Larrère
remettent

en
cause
dans

la
notion
d'Anthropocène
comme
époque
géologique,
qui
relève
d'une
fascination
pour
la
puissance
humaine.

Plus
symbolique
que
scientifique,
la
notion
est
d'abord
le
support
de
récits

antagonistes,
entre
quête
de
davantage
de
manipulation
ou
vision
catastrophiste
de
l'effondrement.

En
opposition
au
sentiment
de
maîtrise,
ils
développent
une
réflexion
autour
des
grands
paradigmes

de
la
technique,
prônant
une
exploration
des
possibles
par
le
«p
ilotage»,
une
démarche
du
«faire
avec»
consistant
à
initier,
utiliser
et
orienter
des
processus
naturels.

Il
s'agit
d'avoir
l'humilité
du
pilote
et
de
l'éleveur
plutôt
que
l'arrogance
de
l'ingénieur
et
du
fabricant.
Saisir
la
nature
non
comme
substance,
extérieure
à
l'homme,

mais
de
façon
relationnelle,
leur
permet
de
développer
une
éthique
du
soin
de
ce
qui
n'est
pas
nous
sans
relever
de
l'extériorité
radicale.

Vers

une

éthique

du

pilotage

entretien

avec

Catherine

et
Raphaël
Larrère

1.
Catherine
et
Raphaël
Larrère,
Penser
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agir
avec
la
nature,
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La
Découverte,
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2015.

2.
Catherine
et
Raphaël
Larrère,
*Du
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la
nature,
pour
une
philosophie
de
l'environnement,*
Aubier,
Paris,
1997
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Champs
»,
Paris,
2009.

3.
Catherine
et
Raphaël

Larrère,
Bulles
technologiques,
Wildproject,
Marseille,
2017.

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est
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émerite
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politique
et
environnementale

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agronome
et
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ancien
directeur
de
recherche
à
l'INRA,
spécialiste
du
rapport
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hommes
avec
la
nature
et
la
technique.
Ils
sont
notamment
les
auteurs
de
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agir
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de
l'environnement
et
Bulles
technologiques.*

technique. L'appellation « Gaïa » pose au contraire à exister – et continuera à exister sans les hommes – même si l'appellation d'Anthropocène a été proposée (Stoermer, un géologue et Crutzen, un chimiste). L'Anthropocène est une façon de raconter l'histoire des humaines. C'est une façon, non seulement de raconter l'histoire des humains –, mais en plus de présenter cela comme un récit, celui de l'Anthropocène.

Nombreux sont ceux qui ont déploré la fin de l'ère (le Peuple) de la modernité à l'époque post-modernité. Si celui-ci est global, il vaut pour la Terre entière. Par l'anthropocentrisme du mot, on peut y voir la conquête de la Terre, dont l'homme est vraiment le maître.

C'est la version du « bon Anthropocène », un Progrès, grâce au pouvoir que les humains ont exercé sur le monde global. C'est sur fond de ce récit optimiste qu'un autre récit est né. À l'inverse de celui-ci, est la version catastrophiste de la puissance humaine, mais pour s'en effrayer, il faut reconnaître que celle-ci procède de la modernité (Progrès, maîtrise de la nature). Celle-ci conduit à sa destruction: la puissance humaine retourne contre lui. Nous entrons dans une période de brusques ruptures catastrophiques. Entre fascination et peur, fasciné par la puissance humaine, il faut étudier la puissance de celle-ci. Ce n'est pas nécessairement catastrophistes, permet de voir la puissance de cette époque qui porte les stigmates de l'action humaine et de la nature hybrides d'humains et de nature.

R

L

:

Quant à la datation de l'entrée dans l'époque hypothèses. La plus commune la fait comme qui marque le début de la libération massive dans le charbon (puis le pétrole). Une seconde de l'agriculture, ce qui signifierait que l'Holo commence à peu près à la même époque. Une son origine à la découverte de l'Amérique par des Européens sur le continent, suivie de la p massacre des Amérindiens, ayant décimé ju a profondément affecté la façon dont les Indi feu les grandes prairies du nord ouvertes au p Centrale et du Sud, l'agriculture sur défriche grande échelle. À défaut d'entretien, ces espa des forêts, augmentant le nombre d'arbres co Les carottes de glace révèlent en effet une ba carbone de l'atmosphère à cette époque – ce âge glaciaire, puisque le CO_2 est un gaz à effet de l'homme a donc eu un impact repérable su très discutée, puisque beaucoup de commen comme une époque marquée par une modifi

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Terre. Or, dans ce cas précis, bien que l'impact
phénomène a été totalement réversible en ce
aux colons de déboiser pour rétablir la comp
L'impact le plus durable aura été celui sur la b
le nouveau monde et l'ancien ont permis aux
brassage de plantes, d'animaux et de germes

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*Ce récit est-il le symptôme d'une nouvelle crise
du repositionnement de l'homme dans la nation
paradoxe, tout à la fois de victime et de bon*

C

L

:

C'est là que réside la grande ambiguïté de l'Ar
de dire que le développement des sciences a n
spontané des hommes, notamment autour d
relatives à de grands décentremements : avec le
Newton, la Terre n'est plus au centre de l'univ
qu'un système parmi d'autres ; avec Darwin,
de Dieu, il a co-évolué avec l'ensemble du viv
n'est plus, selon l'expression cartésienne, « l
son inconscient lui échappe.

R

L

:
Selon Dominique Lestel, il y aurait même un
plaçant l'Anthropocène au cinquième rang. C
l'apprentissage de la langue des signes à une f
langage des caractéristiques proprement hu
C

L

:
La dernière serait relative à la prise de consci
notre propre milieu et, *a fortiori*, de notre pro

équivocité de l'Anthropocène réside dans le fait que les blessures narcissiques – résultant de découvertes qui le remet au centre. L'Anthropocène relève plus de la science en ce sens que l'apport scientifique est ce qui l'invite à se projeter dans un futur, faisant de

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Une des caractéristiques du catastrophisme futur en mémoire, même si celui-ci est effroyable, est de proposer des moyens de vivre et de survivre après la catastrophe.

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Vers une éthique du pilotage

Catherine et Raphaël Larrère

P

C

:

*Les progrès de la technique renforcent un seuil
même de puissance vis-à-vis du climat mais
nuances cependant cette impression en par
possibles » et de « pilotage ».*

R

L

:

L'idée de pilotage repose sur une réflexion au sein des techniques. D'un côté nous avons la fabrication d'inédit dans la nature, ce qui relève du «faire» qui suppose que l'on contrôle le comportement du vivant. C'est le travail de l'artisan, de l'ingénieur, de l'architecte. Marx, ce qui distingue l'abeille la plus experte de l'homme, c'est la capacité de ce dernier à concevoir et planifier son esprit avant de la réaliser. D'un autre côté, les techniques initient, utilisent et orientent des processus naturels et non espérés. Il s'agit du « faire avec », du « pilotage » d'un humble qui, pour ne pas échouer, suppose de prendre en compte le milieu naturel et social dans lequel on se trouve. Si l'on parle volontiers d'artificialisation de la nature, les biotechnologies (transgénèse⁶, CrispR Cas9⁷ chez les mammifères), elles consistent en fait à mettre

expérimentaux initiant des processus naturels aussi naturels, mais qui n'ont pas eu l'occasion de l'évolution. Ce qui rend ces biotechnologies qu'elles « produisent » des vivants artificiels, réalisent croient et font croire qu'ils sont des ont fait venir à l'existence ont un comportement parfaitement contrôlables. En réalité, ce sont le travail des cellules, des enzymes et qui, parmi les révélés, sélectionnent ceux qui sont susceptibles ou militaire. Ils devraient avoir l'humilité du l'arrogance de l'ingénieur et du fabricant. Nous sommes pourtant confrontés à une violence contraignante sur le vivant, qui peut parfois s pour la nature. Il a d'ailleurs été question par de reproducteurs performants dans le but d'« méthode du *gene drive*, on peut effectuer un à tous les descendants. On a, par exemple, so femelles stériles – recherche actuellement m s'ensuivre des expériences grandeur nature d'espèces considérées comme nuisibles. Il y a cette idée d'Auguste Comte qui m'a touj d'un monde uniquement composé d'espèces autres ayant disparu. Ce serait terrible, d'aut

de moins en moins d'espèces. Heureusemen

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que grâce aux progrès de la science, on trouve
l'herbe la plus commune. Mais nous continuons
un contrôle toujours plus grand, conduisant
d'autre qu'un instrument sur lequel on pourr
de tout ce qui est « nuisible » ou « inutile ».

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On assiste pourtant à une reconsidération a

une extension du mouvement antispéciste
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Dans un pays comme la France, l'élevage s'est développé au XX^e siècle avec pour objectif de permettre aux Français d'accéder à la nourriture carnée. Les conditions de vie des animaux ont été en considération à partir des années 1970, en partant de la prise en compte des contraintes imposées aux animaux dans les élevages de bovins, de veaux et de volailles. Une première réaction a été de considérer la viande comme de la viande sur pattes, ni un tréteau, ni un animal, dont nous devons respecter la sensibilité. C'est la création d'associations de protection des animaux, de l'animal en tant qu'être sensible. Comme l'écrit Derrida, c'est parce que les hommes sont doués de sensibilité qu'ils ont le droit de s'en servir.

porter préjudice à nos semblables, non parce
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Un second mouvement, aux racines anciennes, prend
l'ampleur depuis une quinzaine d'années, dénonce
seulement les animaux ont droit au bien-être
qu'ils possèdent. Ce mouvement est hérité de la
violence et de l'exploitation –, mais aussi du fossé
de traitement entre les femmes et les animaux.
du végétarisme et du véganisme/végétalisme
animale, même pour les œufs et le lait. Ce qui
sont traités les animaux devient une critique

tant que telle. J'ajouterais l'importance du travail des associations militantes depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale au-delà de la critique des méthodes d'industrialisation pour révéler ce que l'on s'efforce de cacher.

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On ne dissimule pas uniquement les conditions de production, surtout que la viande que l'on voit sur les étaux n'a pas été tuée. Les animaux furent bien vivants. Dans les circuits de distribution, on ne voit plus les carcasses entières comme chez les bouchers de la chair et occultons les animaux dont elle

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Vers une éthique du pilotage

Catherine et Raphaël Larrère

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Selon la lecture des mythes grecs que font Dédalos et le carnivorisme relèveraient d'une part des animaux. La philosophe Florence Burgat défend l'hypothèse selon laquelle cette différenciation consommer uniquement des animaux et non l'espèce. En s'appuyant sur l'étude des civilisations, la consommation massive d'êtres humains existait dans toute une partie des sociétés humaines avant l'ère d'élevage. Alors que la sacralisation des rituels de consommation comme un moyen de souligner la gravité de l'acte était un moyen d'accroître le plaisir de manger.

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Ces mouvements « anti » s’opposent également à considérer l’animal tantôt comme une machine à augmenter le rendement, tantôt comme un être sensible que l’on pourrait programmer à dessein.

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L’expression « programmable » appliquée aux animaux.
D’une part on a voulu opérer chez les animaux

des modifications de génome en considérant l'informatique, avec l'idée qu'il suffirait de le décompiler et éventuellement modifier – le fonctionnement du programme. Mais que cette approche n'est pas suffisante, puisque, si programme il y a, il se construit au fur et à mesure en fonction des interactions entre le génome et l'environnement. Ensuite, l'animal s'est retrouvé en première ligne de la naturalisation de l'esprit. Pour expliquer la complexité de ce phénomène naturel – et non plus seulement artificiel – les computationnalistes ont effectué des recherches en traitement de l'information (à la manière des ordinateurs). Plus que de naturalisation, c'est d'une mécanisation de l'esprit animal qu'il s'agit. Les animaux se sont trouvés pris dans ces travaux de naturalisation de l'esprit animal n'a pas eu que des aspects négatifs. Ils ont révélé des capacités cognitives importantes (qui était déjà celle des éthologistes) que les animaux ont bien plus riche que leur seule sensibilité (les dauphins sont capables d'enseigner des autres dauphins). Cette découverte reste cependant contradictoire.

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Tout ceci nous amène aux questions d'éthique. De manière générale, comment définissez-vous le bien commun et comment en prendre soin, comment les éthiques environnementales et des approches

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À partir du moment où l'on ne considère pas la nature
extérieure à l'homme, on ne la saisit plus comme
relationnelle. La philosophie du *care* relève d'une éthique
de quelque chose qui ne soit pas nous, sans pour autant être
radicale. Il n'y a pas une nature, elle est plurielle. Il y a
diverses cultures pour qui la nature – au sens

n'existe pas, utilisent un vocabulaire nouveau pour parler
de la nature. Ils ont appris à présenter leurs conceptions
compréhensibles par les Occidentaux – *Pachamama*. De la même
façon, les Maoris ont fait reconnaître leur droit à la terre
de droit. Cette affirmation culturelle leur permet de résister aux
attaques contre les éléments de paysage en un

occidental. Les animaux, en tant qu'êtres sensibles, ont des droits. Les végétaux, pour l'instant, ne sont encore que des objets, lorsque les espèces sont menacées. Les humains ont des droits à n'importe quoi : un hôpital, une maison, un travail, faut des répondants culturels.

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Les parcs nationaux américains sont considérés comme des lieux sacrés pour les Amérindiens, notre nature, c'est leur territoire. On ne les conçoit pas comme des parcs culturels.

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Dans cette pluralité des rapports à la nature, les
moyens de traduction d'une éthique dans l'autre sont
très compliqués de ne pas tomber dans l'impasse du
concept occidental de nature. Il faut donc trouver des
moyens pour parler de choses qui n'existent pas pour
les uns et les autres. Les peuples arrivent à traduire assez facilement
leurs propres revendications concernant ce que n'est pas
la nature, c'est parce qu'eux-mêmes ont commencé à être
ce qu'ils ne sont pas, que leur culture est pour ainsi dire hybride.

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Ce qui est un peu vrai pour nous également. S
je suis un peu animiste...

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To make a connection with the third issue of Stream, which was published two years ago, could you tell us why you dispute the definition of the Anthropocene as a “geological epoch” and what that term represents for you?

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The term “Anthropocene” is somewhat of a paradox. Calling a geological epoch after humankind—*anthropos* means “man” in Ancient Greek—is more than simply pointing to the passage of one age to another; it represents an innovation in the way these geological periods are named. The name of epochs would refer to temporal or pedogeological indications

Holocene means “entirely recent,” the Jurassic refers to the Jura Mountains, and the

Carboniferous to the presence of coal. The entry in the Anthropocene thus signifies two things: that there are observable changes that are major enough to justify talking about a new epoch, and that humans are responsible for them. Choosing to state that we have entered a human epoch carries the risk of humanity acting as if there were only humans now, as if it had absorbed nature, and that this was something we could be proud of. The term “Anthropocene” was heavily criticized and

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But from the standpoint of the disappearance of nature, it amounts to the same: the “Technocene” suggests that the Earth is completely transformed by technology. In contrast, “Gaia” asserts that the Earth can continue to exist (and will continue to

exist without humans). This is probably why although the designation “Anthropocene” was proposed by scientists (Stoermer, a geologist and Crutzen, a chemist), it was especially

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The space occupied by man in the evolution of the planet raises questions about the limits of their work on environmental philosophy, Catherine and Raphaël explore the concept of a geological era, which is driven by a fascination for the power of nature.

first of all a platform for developing conflicting narratives, for
a cataclysmic vision of collapse. In opposition to a sense of
of technology, advocating the exploration of possibilities v
initiating, using, and guiding natural processes. It is a matter
rather than the arrogance of the engineer and the manufact

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tance, outside of man, but in a relational manner, allows the
which is not us, that which is other, while avoiding participa

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appreciated in the humanities. It is a way, not only of characterizing our times (that of the humans), but also to present it as a narrative, the new great narrative of the Anthropocene. Many people have lamented the end of the great narratives (the nation, the people) of modernity in the post-modern period. So here we are again, and this one is global; it applies to the entire planet. But it is very ambiguous. The anthropocentric construct can be interpreted as being the narrative of the completion of the conquest of Earth by humankind, now truly its master and owner. This is the version of the “good Anthropocene,” an optimistic narrative of continued progress, thanks to the power of humans to manipulate the Earth on a global scale. This optimistic narrative is the backdrop of geo-engineering.¹ In contrast, there is a catastrophist version, which also takes stock of human power but is alarmed by it: the

Anthropocene is the epoch that proceeds from modernity (progress, the mastery of nature) to the very moment when it leads to its destruction. The power that humankind has imposed turns against its bearer. We are entering a period of collapse punctuated with sudden catastrophic disruptions. Rather than opting for one of the two extremes of fascination for human power, we need to examine the diversity of lifestyles and not necessarily catastrophist ones, that could enable us to live in the Anthropocene, in these times that bear the scars of human action and in which hybrids of humans and nature are being constructed.

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Regarding the dating of the
beginning of the Anthropocene
epoch, there are several
theories. In the most common

one, it begins during the Industrial Revolution, with the outset of the massive release of carbon from fossil fuels into the atmosphere. In an alternative theory, it dates back to the emergence of agriculture, implying that the Holocene has never existed given that it starts roughly at the same period in time. Yet another theory ascribes its origin to the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus and the arrival of Europeans on the continent, followed by the spread of epidemics and the massacre of Native Americans. Ninety per cent of the indigenous population died, which had a profound impact on the way Native Americans used fire to maintain the open grasslands of the North as grazing lands for buffaloes. In South and Central America, slash-and-burn agriculture was widely abandoned. The lack of maintenance caused these areas to revert back to the wilderness and forests started replacing them, strongly increasing the amount of carbon stored in the biosphere.

of carbon-capturing trees. Ice cores indeed reveal a substantial drop in the carbon levels in the atmosphere in that period, which also corresponds to the onset of a minor ice age given that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Even at this stage, human action therefore had a noticeable impact on the climate. This is a very controversial hypothesis given that many commentators define the Anthropocene as an epoch that is marked by a non-reversible modification of the Earth system. However, in this particular case, though human presence is noticeable, the phenomenon was completely reversible as far as the climate was concerned. Settlers restored the composition of the atmosphere and the climate simply by clearing the forests. Biodiversity was impacted on a much more lasting basis: there was a widespread transfer of natural species between the Old World and the New World, causing an intermixing of plants, animals, and pathogens, recreating Pangea² in a sense.

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identity crisis due to the repositioning
of humankind within nature and our
paradoxical situation both as a victim
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Therein lies the great ambiguity of the Anthropocene. It is common to assert that the development of science has deflated the naïve self-love of humans, notably through three major narcissistic injuries inflicted by three great historical blows on human self

importance: with the discoveries of Copernicus and Newton, our Earth is no longer at the center of the universe and the solar system is but one

system among many others; with Darwin, man is no longer created in the image of God but rather has co-evolved along the rest of the living world; with Freud, man is no longer a master of himself, like a sailor in a ship, as Descartes puts it, because he has no grasp on his uncon-

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According to Dominique Lestel, there may even be a fourth narcissistic injury, placing the Anthropocene in fifth position. This injury is linked to a female chimpanzee being taught sign language, thus expunging language from the characteristics that are deemed unique to humans.
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The latest injury would thus have to do with the growing awareness of our negative impact on our own milieu, and, thus also of our own endangerment. The strong equivocality of the Anthropocene lies in the fact that, unlike the first narcissistic injuries, which were caused by discoveries that demoted humans from being the center of things, this one puts humankind back at center stage. The Anthropocene sounds more like science-fiction than science to the extent that the scientific grounding is meager; as a narrative, it is akin to science-fiction given that it invites us to project ourselves into a

given future, while making our present a past
that we can now judge.

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One of the characteristics of catastrophism,
in its optimistic version, is stating that we must
keep the future well in mind, however dreadful
in order to invent ways of living and surviving

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Technological progress brings about a stronger sense of control, or even of power, vis-à-vis the climate as well as the living world. You qualify this impression however by referring to an “exploration of possibilities” and of “

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The idea of driving is based on thorough consideration of the major technological paradigms. On the one hand, we have fabrication, the creation of something unprecedented that cannot be found in nature, all that falls under “making/fabricating.” In a certain sense, fabrication implies controlling the behavior of the objects we have fabricated. Such is the work of craftsmen, engineers, and architects. As Marx put it, “what distinguishes the worst architect from the best of bees” is the capacity to design and prefigure a construction in their mind before creating it. But, who knows, we may maybe find out that bees think up their hives before making them. On the other hand, we have all the techniques that initiate, use, and direct natural processes to reach an intended outcome. This is “dealing with” or “driving,”

a much more humble approach that requires taking the utmost account of the natural and social context in which we find ourselves in order to prevent failure.

Though people often talk in terms of the artificialization of nature when

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the *gene drive*,⁵ and the cloning
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devices that reveal perfectly natural possibilities that simply haven't had the opportunity of arising over the course of biological evolution. What makes biotechnologies problematic isn't that they "produce" artificial living forms but that the researchers that materialize them believe and make believe that what they have brought into existence has a predictable behavior and is therefore perfectly controllable. In reality, they are tinkerers who put cells and enzymes to work and select a few of the possible outputs that they have thereby revealed among those that might have an economic or military value. They should have the humbleness of pilots or stockbreeders rather than the arrogance of

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And yet we are faced with an increasingly restrictive willingness to engineer the living, which at times proves very harmful for natur

In the past, there were plans for cloning high performing breeders in order to “improve” a species. The gene drive method can be used to create targeted mutations that will be carried to the progeny. For instance, there have been plans to make female mosquitos sterile, which could eventually lead to full-scale tests to eradicate species that are considered as pests.

There is this idea by Auguste Comte that has always worried me a lot, that of a world consisting only of species deemed useful to humans, all the others having died out. This would be terrible, especially given that humans are using fewer and fewer species.

Fortunately, John Stuart Mill responded that thanks to the progress of science, we would find an extraordinary value in the most common of grasses. But we continue considering

Progress like an ever-stronger
mastery over things, leading
animals to become nothing
more than instruments on
which we can intervene to get rid of anything
deemed deleterious or useless.

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Yet we are witnessing a reconsideration

*of the animal condition and an
expansion of the antispecism movement*

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In a country like France, livestock farming started modernizing in the mid-twentieth century, with a view to giving low-income households an access to meat products. The living conditions of animals were taken into account from the 1970s onwards, especially when we became more aware of the constraints imposed on animals in intensive pig farming, poultry breeding batteries, and veal calves on factory farms. An initial response was to stop considering animals like “meat on legs” or “udder stands,” but rather as sentient beings to be taken under consideration and respected. This marked the onset of the animal welfare movement, with the creation of farm

animal welfare organizations advocating the recognition of animals as sentient beings. As Rousseau had argued before, the reason why we must not harm our fellow human beings is because they are sentient beings, not because they are endowed with reason.

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Subsequently, another movement has mushroomed in the past fifteen years or so. It advocates the idea that animals not only have a right to well-being but also a right to

life, which is the only thing they have. This is a movement with ancient roots, stemming from anarchism—and its hatred of violence and exploitation—but also from feminism, given the similarity in the way women and animals are treated. It takes on the form of vegetarianism and veganism, inviting us to avoid all forms of animal exploitation, including the production of eggs and milk. What was initially criticism of the way animals are treated becomes criticism of

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Towards an Ethic of Driving

Catherine et Raphaël Larrère

the exploitation of animals *per se*. I would add that the important revelatory work conducted by advocacy groups since the end of the Second World War. Their power, beyond the criticism of the industrialization of animal husbandry, consists in revealing what is concealed.

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What is being concealed is not only the conditions in which the animals are raised and killed but also the fact the meat that we see on display comes from animals that were alive. Meat is now retailed in packaged cuts

and consumers do not see whole carcasses as they would at the butcher's. We now eat flesh while concealing the animals it comes from.

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According to D  tienne and Vernant's reading of the Greek myths, animal sacrifice and meat

eating is driven by the firm desire to set us apart from animals. The philosopher Florence Burroughs recently called into question the assumption that a salient feature of this differentiation is

that humans only eat non-human animals and not individuals of our own species. Building on studies on pre-Columbian civilizations, she uncovered the fact that there was a massive consumption of human beings that were kept for that purpose. She believes that a whole part of human societies therefore ate farmed humans. As the sacralization of killing rituals was viewed as a means of stressing the gravity of the action, she posits that the sacrifices were a way of increasing the pleasure of eating meat.

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These “anti” movements also oppose the widespread tendency to view animals as either machines whose yield can be improved or software that can be

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When applied to animals, the expression “programmable” hinges on two things. First, there was a drive to modify the genome of animals, just as with plants, under the

assumption that they were akin to software that simply needed to be decoded to be able to understand, and eventually modify, the way living systems operate. We now know that this approach isn't sufficient given that it only takes nature into account and not nurture. If there is indeed a program, then it develops incrementally based on the interactions between the genome and its environment. Later, animals found themselves on the front line of what has been called the naturalization of the mind. In order to explain human consciousness as a natural phenomenon

and not merely as something cultural

computationalist cognitivists have researched how the brain deals with the information coming from the senses (in the same way as a computer). More than a form of naturalization, it comes down to a mechanization of the mind. Animals found themselves caught up in this scientific work. This form of mechanization

the animal mind didn't only result in negative impacts given that it revealed the substantial cognitive abilities of animals. This strengthened the conviction (already held by ethologists) that animals are thinking beings with mental worlds well beyond sentience; mice learn from their mistakes, dolphins can teach each other tricks, and so on. This discovery remains in contradiction with the way animals are still

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All this leads us to issues relating to ethics and responsibility. Broadly speaking, how do you define nature as a common good and how can we take care of it given the diversity of environmental ethics and cultural

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As soon as we stop considering nature as being completely outside humans, we stop viewing it as a substance and have a more relational approach to it. The ethics of *care* are based on the idea that we can take care of something that isn't us, but not a radical exteriority either. There is no single nature, nature is plural. At the UN, the representative of various cultures for which nature—as we understand it at least—doesn't exist use new

vocabulary to protect their own conception of nature. They learned how to present their cosmovisions in words Westerners could understand—*Pachamama* is one of these terms. In the same way, the Maori have won recognition for Whanganui River as having legal rights. This affirmation of their culture allows them to directly react to assaults on elements of the landscape by utilizing the resources of Western law. Animals, *qua* sentient beings, are starting to have rights. Plants, for the time being, fall within the scope of law simply as objects, when plant species are endangered. Technically speaking, we can give rights to just about anything: a hospital, a mountain, a fly, but some cultural respondents are needed.

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U.S. National Parks are viewed as natural parks. Yet, for Native Americans, our nature is in fact their culture. They should therefore also be conceived of as cultural parks.
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This diversity of relationships to nature poses the challenge of finding ways of transla

one ethic into another. At the global scale, it is very difficult not to give in to cultural imperialism by imposing the Western concept of nature. It is therefore necessary to find forms of translation to talk about things that don't exist for everybody. In a sense, certain populations manage to quite easily translate their own claims made about what we regard as nature in a Western mindset because they themselves have started to be caught up in Cartesian thought and their culture is, so to speak, a hybrid culture.

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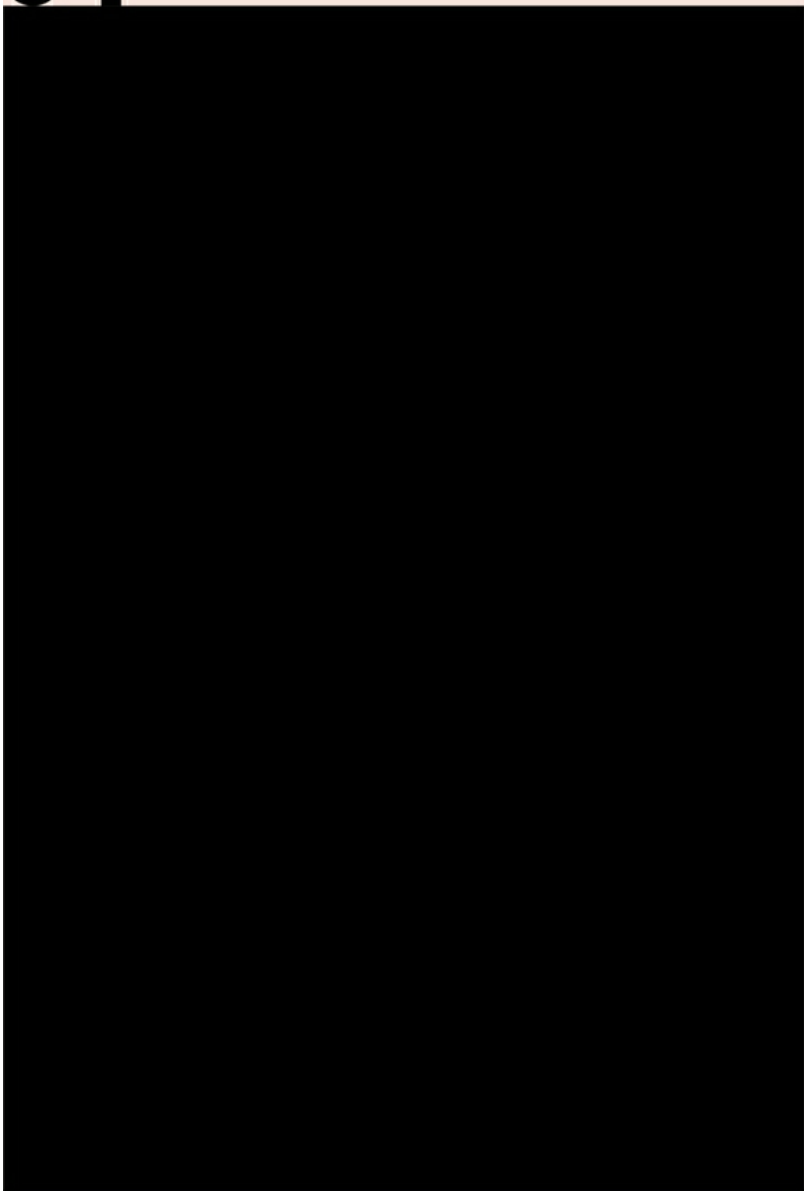
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*Considérer le « vivant » au XXI^e
siècle exige de repenser les rapports
sujet-objet et culture-nature, mais
aussi que nous nous posions de
nouvelles questions : l'humanité
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L'Ontologie Orientée Objet (OOO) désigne par « objet » l'unité fondamentale du réel. Nous entendons ainsi la notion d'« objet » de manière beaucoup plus large qu'objets concrets et matériels. Un objet, pour l'OOO, peut être réduit de façon exhaustive, que ce soit ce qui n'est pas réductible à ses composants ou ce que la connaissance fait l'une de ces deux choses. Réciproquement, il y a deux formes de connaissance : nous pourrions dire ce qui fait et ce que fait cette chose, avec toutes les variations possibles. C'est ce que j'appelle *undermining* (qui est exprimé en français par « démolition » et « enfoncement ») (*undermining*) avance qu'une chose peut être

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La prise de conscience environnementale redéfinit notre position humaine comme partie d'un tout en interrelation globale et complexe. Le philosophe Graham Harman, fondateur de l'Ontologie Orientée Objet, réfute pourtant l'idée devenue commune que tout serait lié dans la nature.

Certaines choses sont intimement – et

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composants ou ses effets – mais conteste l'idée d'une théologie négative, cette approche laissant « entrevoir » les objets même sans formuler de connaissance discursive. Si l'OOO fait l'hypothèse d'une égalité ontologique entre tous les objets, elle n'affirme pas pour autant d'égalité politique ou morale. Un homme n'est pas sur un pied d'égalité avec une poussière, mais elle ne voit en revanche pas de raison que l'humain occupe la majorité de

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Pour une pensée des objets

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composants. L'« ensevelissement » (*overmin*) de paraphraser un objet en fonction de ce qu'il est directement, des « événements » auxquels il est lié. Quand les gens brandissent l'étendard de leur intérêt, ils sont intéressés par ce qu'une chose peut faire que par ce qu'elle est. C'est seulement d'une forme de réductionnisme qu'il s'agit. Cela revient à réduire par le haut plutôt que par le bas. Parvenir, c'est à l'objet qui existe *entre* ses composants. Ce que j'appelle la « troisième table » : il ne s'agit pas de ses effets pratiques, mais de la table elle-même. Je pense que les arts abordent mieux cette question que les sciences. Ils sont parfaitement conscients de ne pas former une connaissance. La philosophie non plus, mais les sciences, elles, sont néanmoins persuadées du contraire. L'art et la science sont des formes de connaissance, mais la connaissance n'est pas la science. Les sciences sont cognitives, mais la connaissance n'est pas la science. La science n'est pas la connaissance. La connaissance est à l'évidence quelque chose de plus. Notre civilisation moderne est fondée sur la croyance que la connaissance est la science. Mais la connaissance n'est pas la science. La connaissance n'est pas la seule forme de connaissance.

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Socrate nous a appris que la philosophie n'est que la recherche de la connaissance. L'une des leçons des dialogues de Platon est que nous n'avons jamais vraiment la définition de quoi que ce soit. Socrate cherche à définir ce qu'est la vertu, l'amour, l'amitié, la justice, etc. Il démolit les réponses des autres mais n'aboutit jamais à une définition. Il nous dit que seul un dieu peut avoir cette connaissance. Pour lui-même, *philosophia*, signifie l'amour de la sagesse, mais de quelque chose qu'on ne peut pas définir. Les critiques de ce modèle disent souvent que c'est une théologie négative, que l'on dit juste ce que les autres ne disent pas, ce qu'ils sont. Mais cela part du principe d'un dialogue. On voudrait que si l'on ne formule pas explicitement une proposition textuelle, alors ce ne sont que des

Ce n'est pas le cas. Les êtres humains ont énoncé des métaphores, de l'ordre de l'évocation des choses exactes. Allusions, sous-entendus, menaces. Ce n'est pas des paraphrases littérales de ce qu'est la chose, les objets. Il en est de même dans les arts : si l'on parle en prose, il s'agit vraisemblablement d'une œuvre, d'un résumé. C'est l'un ou l'autre.

Nous savons qu'il n'y aura jamais d'analyse de la poésie de Baudelaire, parce que ces objets ne peuvent être analysés. Les sciences naturelles sont véritablement capables de l'exception de quelques moments de crise scientifique, comme celui d'électron, le travail du scientifique est caractéristique des électrons. Tout l'inverse

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L'OOO est une manière de traiter cette question. Les gens disent souvent que se concentrer sur l'OOO n'a rien de nouveau, du fait de la « chose en soi » de son précurseur. Le problème, c'est que même chose en soi et c'est quelque chose que nous ne pourrions jamais la penser, mais nous ne la connaissons jamais. L'OOO revendique une position plus radicale que la causale il y a un résidu ou surplus inexprimé. L'OOO fonctionne à différents niveaux, y compris au niveau P.

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*L'OOO se rapporte-t-elle spécifiquement à l'anthropocentrique ? Cette idée aurait-elle p
ans ? Plus important encore, comment l'OC
Anthropocène ? En repensant la relation en
que nous apprenons de l'écologie que tout es
peut-elle justifier l'accent qu'elle met sur l'a
autonome des choses ? Pourquoi concentrer
objet alors que nous devrions être en train d
réseaux, aux systèmes, aux structures et au
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C'est une erreur commune de considérer qu

est relié. Ce qu'elle nous dit, au contraire, c'est
étroitement reliées – de façons qui peuvent to
ne le sont quasiment pas. Dire que « tout est r
de montrer pourquoi certaines choses entre
mutuelle alors même que d'autres ne le font p
faut reconnaître que les relations revêtent un
nullement de soi qu'une entité en affecte néc
différentes entités ne seraient-elles pas mutu
de toute influence? Oui, nous pouvons voir e
choses en affectent *effectivement* d'autres, n
toujours là un problème d'ordre philosophiq

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à Dublin, en avril 2009 –, James Lovelock ne
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Vous posez une question intéressante, qui est
exister il y a cinquante ans. Non seulement je
d'une lecture d'Heidegger qui aurait pu, en pr
Sein und Zeit – mais en un sens, l'OOO aurait
après Kant. Il me semble que la période post-

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à partir des années 1790 – a été l'une des gran
philosophie. Les idéalistes se sont alors déba

Pour une pensée des objets

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en disant « penser une chose en dehors de la p
chose en soi est donc une contradiction dans
des façons d'immanentiser le *Ding an sich* et
un « au-delà » impossible, soustrait à tout acc
différent aurait été possible après Kant. On a
au sujet de la chose en soi, mais tort de pense
quelques « êtres rationnels » sont incapables
affirme que le noumène n'est pas ce qui dépa
humaine mais ce qui dépasse *toute relation* q
soit ou non « consciente » – et qui sait réelleme
désormais ? –, elle est incapable de se mettre
falaise, une rivière, une feuille de papier ou la
Si la philosophie post-kantienne avait empru
l'Idéalisme allemand, les deux cents dernière
totalement différentes. L'OOO peut être con
temps pour effectuer une correction de cap.
Évidemment, cet argument de l'OOO a donn
insensées. La plus courante peut se résumer
sur un pied d'égalité les êtres humains et non
ontologique aux humains, alors les êtres hun
avec une simple décharge. En conséquence,
humains ne valent pas mieux que des déchet

patente. L'approche que fait l'OOO d'une on
objets sont de façon égale des objets, pas que
ou que l'on doive leur reconnaître la même d
ne signifie pas égalité sur le plan politique ou
Vous remarquerez d'ailleurs qu'avant même
humains, les objets eux-mêmes ne sont pas n
certains objets comme des trésors, d'autres c
pas seulement des trésors parce que nous les
sont à juste titre du fait de leur beauté except
fonction utilitaire. Une hiérarchie des objets
que les êtres humains ne soient pas l'objet le p
d'objets. Mais ce que je rejette est l'idée mode
les humains et les non-humains soient de nat
doivent monopoliser la moitié de la philosop
cosmos se contenter de l'autre. C'est si impro
nous enseigne tout autre chose : nous ne som
cosmique que nous le sommes pour nous-mê
s'avérera peut-être assez minable par rappor
peut-être déjà ou existeront dans un futur pr
Ceci dit, s'il y a bien un endroit où le sujet jou
les arts : une œuvre a besoin que quelqu'un la
un art sans êtres humains, ou en tout cas qu'i
êtres humains. Les dauphins ou les perroque

élaborées d'expérience esthétique, mais ce q
humains comme catalyseurs. L'œuvre d'art e

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tout ce que peut y voir l'observateur ou le spectateur
n'est pas une chose physique située en dehors de l'œuvre
constituée à la fois de l'œuvre d'art et de nous-mêmes.
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Vous évoquez la relation entre l'art, l'architecture, où l'équilibre entre forme et fonction.
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L'architecture représente une situation plus
Le thème principal de l'OOO est bien sûr l'au
dans le domaine des arts visuels, même si les
nécessairement l'une des composantes de to

l'architecture, les êtres humains le sont de fait pour une raison différente et beaucoup plus profonde. L'architecture n'était pas mise au service de fins humaines, mais d'architecture, mais d'une œuvre d'art. Réciproquement, si la préoccupation fonctionnelle, il ne s'agirait pas de l'art. Patrick Schumacher explique dans *Autopoiesis* la tension en architecture entre les notions antagonistes de fonction et de forme, que les deux sont nécessaires et critique Peter Zumthor qui se focalise sur la forme, tout en critiquant les fonctionnalistes la fonction. L'argument qu'oppose Patrick Schumacher est que les problèmes d'ingénierie sous-tendent l'architecture. Je ne trouve que se trouve que j'adore la tour Eiffel. Je ne sais pas si c'est nos jours, mais on dit que Paul Verlaine la découvrit lors de tous ses itinéraires de promenade pour éviter la foule. Elle concerne, je l'adore, et il s'agit bien sûr d'un tour de force de la part de Gustave Eiffel. Mais un grand nombre de critiques de design, affirmant qu'il s'agit d'une piètre œuvre d'art. S'ils ont raison, cette critique serait fondée sur le fait que c'est qu'une pure réalisation d'ingénierie, dont les aspects artistiques découlent pas logiquement de l'ingénierie. C'était anti-tour Eiffel (je n'ai aucune idée si c'est le cas) derrière tout cela. Mais il existe aussi une certaine critique de projets d'ingénierie soigneusement exécutés.

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Alors que l'Anthropocène appelle à un engagement, voyons clairement que quelque chose ne va, nous avons ces dix dernières années assisté à la création d'objets solitaires d'architecture iconique, relevant du spectacle ». C'est une tendance que je trouve problématique dans les dimensions esthétiques et artistiques de l'architecture, à voir comment repenser cette relation entre

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Pour une pensée des objets

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Commençons par la forme, qui ne doit pas être
visuel apparent. On savait déjà au Moyen Âge
la forme substantielle et la forme accidentelle
que nous associons à la façon dont une chose
ou se rapporte à quelqu'un. J'ajouterai que la
d'un bâtiment est également une forme acci-
certaines tendances en matière d'architectu-
mettre les algorithmes au cœur de l'architecte
la forme substantielle, qui est celle que nous

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tout comme la « chose en soi » de Kant – mais
que l'on désignait autrefois sous le nom de « s

Je me demande si l'on ne pourrait pas procéder à deux types de *fonction* architecturale. Pour la première fonction selon les termes de ce que je qualifie de fonction première, j'entends pas par là les effets secondaires non seulement que ceux-ci ne soient pas dénués d'importance, mais qu'ils soient manifestes et explicites d'un bâtiment. Même sans l'existence d'un programme prédéterminé, il y a là quelque chose de superficiel car il est alors uniquement défini par des choses. Cela n'est bien sûr jamais suffisant pour servir de terme, et c'est le plus souvent le cas, servir à clarifier celle du cahier des charges initial. La « fonction première » serait ainsi inaccessible, comme l'est sa forme (quelque chose relevant exclusivement de l'architecture, des préoccupations d'ordre fonctionnel) et pas de la forme (pas). À cet égard, il existe une idée que j'appelle fonction première. Il s'agit d'éléments de forme ou de fonction qui

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Oui, la forme d'un marteau est à la fois visible de forme différentes. Et la fonction du marteau. Il y a donc une fonction substantielle tout comme là on aboutit à l'Anthropocène... D'une certaine façon que Bruno Latour en ait fait son grand sujet, par sa proximité quand des questions intellectuelles de ce côté public qui fait qu'il ne veut pas que son sujet d'actualité. L'Anthropocène, entre autres, est fâcheuse au niveau scientifique, puisque nous ne pouvons pas voir un microscope et déterminer avec une certitude que le changement climatique est bien réel. Il faut assembler toutes les chaînes de référence pour montrer que ce

très latourien, bien sûr. Il dirait qu'il en a tout
de la science, et il est vrai que l'accès indirect

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plus évident que d'ordinaire avec le réchauffement climatique de nier l'existence.

Il y a en revanche un thème latourien que je n'ai pas en avant dans ses *Gifford Lectures*, selon laquelle la nature n'est pas fabriquée, qu'elle n'aurait d'une certaine manière que c'est tout simplement faux. Il est vrai qu'il faut dissocier la nature de la culture, parce qu'on a des lieux d'« hybrides », tels que le trou dans la couche d'ozone sont devenus des réserves écologiques. J'estime que *moderne* est le livre de philosophie le plus important des dernières années, et nous commençons à peine à en débattre. Bruno Latour finit par tacitement glisser vers l'idée que l'être doit être hybride. L'être humain doit toujours être quelque chose qui soit enregistré dans la réalité, comme la tuberculose parce que cela n'avait pas encore existé avant Pasteur, ils ne « pour Pasteur ». Et maintenant, Gaïa n'existe pas, l'assemble. Ce n'est clairement pas la position de Latour. On détruira peut-être tous très prochainement, la position classique de réalisme scientifique, tout au moins quoique dans une acception beaucoup plus large.

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*Bruno Latour cherche à communiquer cette
travers des émotions. Notamment par le biais
à Toulouse était presque une représentation
de la danse. Il serait ainsi possible d'être sim
le champ architectural, par un enjeu planét
esthétique. Cela pousse à considérer le bâti
comme un élément vivant : cet immeuble co*

*mourra, disparaîtra. Cela relèverait d'une
données, très technique mais cherchant en m
beau ou le distinctif. Pensez-vous que cela r*

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La notion d'activisme esthétique laisse entendre
justifier son esprit militant, chercher à améliorer
proposition pour le moins audacieuse. J'ai un
formalisme, et je souhaite conserver l'autonomie
de se voir réduire au service d'une autre – même
supposées servir une cause aussi noble que sauver
même le monde. J'ai donc toujours eu tendance
morale d'un art qui serait politiquement engagé.
Il faut néanmoins admettre qu'il existe de nombreux
saisir le plein effet en dehors de leur dimension
de Picasso ou *La Case de l'oncle Tom* d'Harriet

Pour une pensée des objets

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Il est impossible de dire par principe que tout leur contexte – ce que souhaite le formalisme – les œuvres d’art des passerelles qui laissent entendre d’autres. Stephen Greenblatt, l’anti-formaliste de la critique littéraire, affirme que les pièces de textes de la période élisabéthaine parmi d’autres William Shakespeare à *l’ensemble* des influences dramaturge. Shakespeare a été sélectif dans les cultures qu’il a incorporées dans ses pièces signifie que l’œuvre d’art comporte des parentés mais pas d’autres. Là encore, l’Histoire du domaine artistique comme ailleurs.

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Avez-vous des exemples explicites ou implicites de l'esthétique dans le domaine de l'architecture ?

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Nous en avons un exemple frappant et particulièrement pertinent avec le Lincoln Memorial. Le Washington Monument est un symbole du président, père fondateur des États-Unis, par son nom. Le Lincoln est bien plus émouvant. Il s'agit d'un homme qui était du bon côté de l'Histoire et qui reste sans doute le plus aimé des Américains. Il est difficile, en tant que citoyen

la statue monumentale du Lincoln Memorial.
Il est devenu impopulaire de prétendre que l'acte
d'une façon ou d'une autre, rencontrer Lincoln
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Quel type de bâtiment non monumental pour
ce que cela pourrait représenter en dehors de
que certaines formes architecturales portent
politiques. Les gratte-ciel par exemple, dont
d'entreprise américain mais qu'ils ont aussi à
de complexité. Nous savons que toute hiérarchie
toute complexité n'est pas bonne. L'un des p
puissance de l'impression 3D et de la concep
possible de générer toutes sortes de formes c
et des contours d'une précision incroyable, n

pas toutes mémorables. L'impression 3D con-
complexes, générées par différents algorithmes
pour la plupart qu'il pourrait tout aussi bien s'
l'opéra de Sydney : ce que je trouve stupéfiant
tant, c'est qu'il repose sur une configuration
quoiqu'inhabituelle. Mais on s'en souvient.

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*Considering the “living” in the
twenty-first century demands that we
reconsider the relationship between
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and ask ourselves new questions: will humanity follow the geo-engineering route? Will we find some intermediary relationship with the environment? What political engagement should we have as architects? What are the philosophical and technological tools that can make this engagement effective? My first question would then be, can Object-Oriented Ontology provide a framework to address these

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Object-Oriented Ontology (OOO) takes
objects to mean the fundamental unit of reality.
But we mean “object” in a much broader sense.

than solid physical things. An object for OOO is simply anything that cannot be exhaustively reduced either downward or upward, to its parts or to its effects. Any sort of knowledge does one of those two things. Notice that there are really only two kinds of knowledge that we can have about anything: we can say what something is made of or we can say what it does, with all the subvariations of these two types. These are what I call *undermining* and *overmining*. Undermining is an attempt to say that a thing can be paraphrased in terms of the smaller pieces of which it is made. Overmining is the attempt to paraphrase an object in terms of what it does, what it shows us directly, what are the “events” in which it participates, what are the relational effects it has. And so, when people wave the Deleuzian flag and say they are more interested in what a thing can do than in what it is, this is just the opposite form of reductionism from the usual kind. They are merely going upward instead of downward. What we really need to get at is the object

that exists *in between* its component and its effects: what I call “the third table.” This is neither the table’s pieces nor its effects in the practical world, but the table itself.

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philosophy, because the arts are fully aware that they are not primarily a form of knowledge. Neither is philosophy, yet many philosophers have convinced themselves otherwise. Art and philosophy are cognitive disciplines, but knowledge is not the only form of cognition. Knowledge is obviously important—our enti

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Environmental awareness redefines our human position a
However, philosopher Graham Harman, the founder of obj
accepted idea that everything in nature is connected. Cert
others almost not at all. Holism thus denies the “problemat
specifies the understanding of the object according to OO
also contests the idea of a negative theology, an approach
discursive knowledge. Though OOO advocates the theory
claim a political or moral equality. A man is not on the same
reason for philosophy to focus so much on the human.

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For a Thought of Objects

modern civilization is based on knowledge. We have so much knowledge that we don't even know what to do with it anymore. And yet, knowledge is not the only form of cognition worth pursuing. We know from Socrates that philosophy is not a kind of knowledge.

One of the lessons taught by the Platonic dialogues is that we never really obtain a definition of anything. Socrates always asks what is virtue, love, friendship, justice, but he never gives an answer. He demolishes the answers of others, but never gets to one himself. He tells us that only a god can have this knowledge. The word philosophy itself—*philosophia*—means love of wisdom. It is not a wisdom in and of itself, but something you can never reach.

Critics of this model often say: “Oh, then you're left with nothing but negative theology; you're just saying what objects are not rather than what they are.” But this assumes an all or nothing result—that if you

do not give us discursive knowledge stated in prose propositions, then you must be giving us nothing but vague mystical gesticulations. That's not the case. Humans have a lot of knowledge that is metaphorical: that alludes to things rather than presenting them directly. We have hints, innuendos, threats. All of these acts of speech are not literal paraphrases of what the thing is, but somehow hint at what the things are. In the arts as well, if you're able to reduce a particular artwork to a prose summary, then most likely it's either not a very good artwork or not a very good summary. One of the two.

We know that there's never going to be a final analysis of *Hamlet* or of the poetry of Baudelaire because these objects cannot be paraphrased. By contrast, the natural sciences are all about paraphrase, except perhaps in moments of scientific crisis. So, if you start with a concept like an electron, your job as a scientist is to discover new true attributes that belong to electrons. You're doing the opposite

of the arts and philosophy.
OOO is a way to deal with this in philosophical terms. Often people will say that this focus on what escapes discursive language isn't new, because of Kant's thing-in-itself or some other precursor. The problem is that even in Kant, the thing in itself is there and it's something we can never know. We can think it but never know it: a tragic human burden. But OOO makes a more radical claim, which is that in every causal interaction there's an unexpressed residue or surplus. OOO is really about looking at how this works on all levels, including the inanimate one.

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*Does OOO relate specifically to the new anthropocentric condition? Could this idea have existed fifty years ago? Most importantly, how does OOO help us today in this Anthropocene era? Is it helping us to reconsider the relationship between object and subject? In a moment where all we learn from ecology is that everything is related to everything else, how can OOO justify its focus on the individual autonomous agency of things? Why at this moment are we looking at an object when we should be looking at
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us that everything is related to everything else.
What it tells us, instead, is that some things are
crucially interrelated in ways that can kill us
all, while other things are barely related to each
other. To say that “everything is interrelated”
is to skip the hard work of showing how certain

things come to be mutually dependent even though others are not. To show this requires we acknowledge that relations are *problematic*. It does not go without saying that one entity should be able to affect another. Why aren't entities just mutually impenetrable, walled off from any influence from other things? Yes, we can see empirically that certain things *do* affect other things, but there is still a philosophical problem here. When I saw James Lovelock's

terrifying Dublin lecture in April 2009, his point was not that *everything* affects the world's climate in cataclysmic fashion. Rather, he emphasized the dangerous positive feedback loop made up of just three specific factors: the eventual death of the rainforests, death of the algae, and the melting of the Canadian and Russian permafrost. Holism is actually a

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You ask an interesting question as to whether OOO could have existed fifty years ago. Not only would I say yes—OOO arises from a reading of Heidegger that, in principle could have been carried out immediately after the publication of *Sein und Zeit*—but there is a sense in which OOO could have existed immediately after Kant. It seems to me that the post-Kantian period of German Idealism from the 1790s forward, is one of the great counterfactual crossroads in the history of philosophy. They got rid of Kant's thing-in

itself by saying, "To think a thing outside thought is already a thought, and therefore the thing-in-itself is a contradiction in terms. They then found ways to immanentize the *Ding an sich* and not allow it to occupy some impossible Beyond closed off from all human access. But a different turn was possible after Kant. Instead, it could have been argued that

Kant is *right* about the thing-in-itself, and merely wrong to think that only humans and other “rational beings” are unable to reach the noumena. OOO’s claim is that the noumena are not that which exceed human perception and cognition, but that which exceed *any relation whatsoever*. Whether or not a stone is “conscious” (and who really knows what “conscious” means anymore?), it is unable to make direct contact with a cliff, a river, a sheet of paper, or the hand of a boy who throws it. If post-Kantian philosophy had taken this path instead of the German Idealist one, the last 200 years of philosophy would look entirely different. OOO can be seen as going back in time and making a course correction.

To be sure, this argument by OOO has led to a number of foolish responses. One of them runs as follows: “Since OOO wants to treat humans and non-humans on the same footing without granting ontological privilege to humans, then humans are on the same footing as a garbage dump. Therefore, OOO

is saying that humans are no better than garbage.” This is an obvious equivocation. The OOO approach to flat ontology means that all objects are equally objects, not that all objects are equally dignified or valuable. Ontological equality does not mean political

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Notice that even before bringing humans into

the picture, objects themselves are not morally equal. We view certain objects as treasures, others as garbage. And they're not treasures just because we're "fetishizing" them. Some objects are legitimately treasures because of their rare beauty or because of some important utilitarian function they might have. So, there's already a hierarchy of objects, and there's no reason why humans couldn't be the most important object in our hierarchy of objects. But what I reject is the central modern idea that humans and non-humans are so different in kind that humans must represent 50 percent of philosophy and absolutely everything else in the cosmos is the other 50 percent. That's so unlikely, so implausible. H.P. Lovecraft helps teach us otherwise—that we are not so important cosmically however important we are to ourselves. Our intelligence may be fairly puny compared to the other intelligence that may exist now or in the very near future. One place where a subject does play a role is in the arts—a work of art needs a beholder.

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art without humans, or at least there can
be no *human* art without humans. Perhaps
dolphins and parrots have a sophisticated form
of aesthetic experience, but what we call art
needs humans as a catalyst. The artwork itself
is always deeper than whatever the beholder
the spectator sees of it. In the end, an artwork

For a Thought of Objects

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is not a physical thing lying outside of us, but
a compound entity made up of the artwork

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You talked about the relationship between OOO and art, but how does it work with architecture when there is clearly a difference in the balance between function and form.

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Architecture is already a more complicated situation than the arts. OOO's main theme, of course, is the autonomy of objects. This is clear in a visual arts context even if humans are, I hold, necessarily one of the ingredients of the artwork. But humans are an ingredient of architecture in a different and more profound sense: namely, if you didn't have any relation to human purposes then it wouldn't be architecture, but an artwork. Conversely, if you were only concerned with the function, then it wouldn't be architecture, but engineering. Patrick Schumacher, in his big two-volume book, *The Autopoiesis of Architecture*, writes that the lead distinction in architecture is the one between form and function. He says that you need both. He criticizes Peter Eisenman here at Yale for only focusing on the form, and he criticizes some engineering people for only focusing on the function. Patrick's

argument against the latter group is that engineering problems always underdetermine design decisions. Now, I happen to love the Eiffel Tower. I don't know what French people think about it these days—Paul Verlaine is said to have hated it so much that he changed his walking routes around Paris in order to avoid having to look it—but I love it. And, of course, that's an engineering tour de force by Gustave Eiffel. But I heard a lot of architects at our conference criticizing it yesterday in design terms and saying it's a terrible piece of architecture. If they're right, then the grounds for their making that criticism would be to say that the Eiffel Tower is purely an engineering achievement and the design decisions do not follow logically from the engineering. That's what Schumacher would say if he were anti

Eiffel Tower (I have no idea whether he is). And there's something to that. But there's also a certain aesthetic grace to sleekly executed
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Leading on from that, in this scenario or situation of the Anthropocene we really have something that calls for universal engagement, and yet we can see clearly that something is going wrong. What has happened over the past ten years is that we have seen many solitary objects of iconic architecture, which are just illustrative of “la société du spectacle.” This is a tendency that I find dangerous. Not to

take away the aesthetic and artistic dimensions of architecture, but I'm struggling to see in what terms you could rethink this relationship between function and form in the shadow of this question of the Anthropocene. Is that in your thoughts?

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Let's start with form, which must not be overidentified with overt visual appearance. The medievals already knew there were two kinds of forms. There's the substantial form and the accidental form. The latter is the one we can identify with how a thing appears, how it

looks to someone or relates to someone. I would also argue that the mathematical formalization of a building is also an accidental form, though I'm aware that there are trends afoot in architecture, opposed to OOO, that want to place algorithms at the center of architecture. Anyway, there's also the substantial form, which is the one you can never see entirely (much like Kant's thing-in-itself) but which structures the thing. It's what used to be called the "substance" of the thing.

Now, I wonder, couldn't the same split be made between two kinds of architectural

function? That is to say, we usually think of function in terms of what I would call accidental function. I don't mean the unanticipated side effects of a building, though these are not unimportant. Instead, I mean the overt, explicit program of a building. Even if a building comes about in order to serve a precise program, there is something accidental or superficial about this, since it defines the building purely in terms of its relations to other things. For OOO this is never enough, of course. A building could (and usually does) end up serving many other purposes from the ones demanded in the competition brief. The "substantial function" of a building would be inaccessible just like its substantial form, but would be something pertaining solely to architecture (which necessarily has function concerns) and not to the visual arts (which do not). On this note there is an idea I call "zero form, zero function." It has to do with elements of form or function

that are there without being deployed.
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Yes, the form of the hammer is both visible and not visible. There are two different kinds of forms. And the function of the hammer is both visible and invisible. So, there's substantial function just as well as substantial form. And

so we come to the Anthropocene...In a way it's not surprising that Bruno Latour took it as his next major topic, since he always seems to be nearby there when important intellectual matters arise. He has that public side to him where he doesn't want his work to be detached from contemporary topics. The Anthropocene, among other things, creates a scientific predicament in which we can't look into a microscope and see with 100 percent certainty that global warming is happening. You have to assemble all these mediators and chains of reference in order to show that it is happening. That's a very Latourian theme, of course. He would say that this has been happening all along in science, but there's no question that the indirect access to scientific truth becomes more evident than usual in the case of global warming. Hence the relative ease of denying its existence.

But there's another Latourian theme that I don't

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he shares in his Gifford lectures—that Gaia has not yet been fabricated, and thus in a way has not come into existence. I think that is simply wrong. It's true that we can't split so cleanly between nature and culture, because we can point to all sorts of “hybrids,” like the ozone hole, or like garbage dumps that become ecological preserves. With *We Have Never Been Modern*, Latour has written the most important philosophy book in the last thirty years, I think. And we haven't begun to discover the implications of this book yet.

But then he ends up slipping tacitly into a position where everything has to be a hybrid. The human always has to be somewhere on the scene for something to be registered in reality. Ramses II cannot have died of tuberculosis, because it wasn't discovered yet; microbes did not really exist before Pasteur, but only pre-existed Pasteur "for Pasteur." And now, Gaia doesn't really exist until we assemble it. That's certainly not Lovelock's position: his position is that Gaia exists, and it may destroy us all very soon whether we like it or not. It's a classical scientific realist position, whereas Latour politicizes reality, albeit in a much broader sense of "political" than used

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*Latour is trying to communicate
this idea of an Anthropocene through*

emotions. He made several attempts with art—his exhibition in Toulouse was almost like a theater performance, with play and dance. So, in the field of architecture is it possible to be simultaneously motivated by a global issue and an aesthetic proposal?

For a Thought of Objects

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If I'm going to design this building, it is not an object—it's more like a living element. It's going to consume things, it's going to die, it's going to disappear. It is very technical and data driven, but at the same time it has to be sublime, beautiful, or distinctive. Do you think there is that idea of aesthetic

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That term suggests that architecture should be activist in spirit and should be trying to improve society, which is a provocative proposition. I'm instinctively sympathetic to formalism, and want to preserve every discipline's autonomy and prevent it from being reduced to the handmaid of another one—even if all disciplines are supposed to become servants of a purpose as noble as saving the climate, saving the proletariat, or saving the world. And so, I always tended to resist the idea of the moral superiority of politically

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Yet one has to admit there are numerous artworks whose full impact cannot be felt apart from the political aspect: Picasso's *Guernica*, Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It's impossible in principle that all works are cut off from the context—this is what high formalism wants to do. It has to be realized that there are gateways in artworks that allow certain influences in, but not others. Stephen Greenblatt, the anti

formalist par excellence in literary criticism says that Shakespeare's plays are one set of Elizabethan texts among others—even he wouldn't reduce Shakespeare to *all* of his influences. He's choosing selectively which were the important cultural features that were integrated into his plays. So, you have to be selective, and if you're selective, that means the artwork has firewalls that only let some

influences in and not others. Again, holism gets us nowhere, in the arts or anywhere else

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*Do you see this aesthetic activism
evident explicitly or implicitly in any*

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The obvious, most moving example in Washington is the Lincoln Memorial. The Washington Monument is a nice smooth obelisk commemorating the great President and father of his country, but Lincoln's is the more moving memorial. The man gave his life, was on the right side of history, and is still probably our greatest President. It's hard not to be moved, as a US citizen, by the larger-than-life statue of Lincoln inside the memorial. In some way, it's edifying. It's not popular to say that art can be edifying, and yet somehow it makes you a better person to encounter Lincoln in statuesque form. In terms of non-monumental buildings, what would do that? And what could do it beyond the sphere of historical significance?

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suppose
you
could
say
that
certain
kinds
of
buildings inherently suggest certain political
orderings. The skyscraper—we like to suggest
that it hints at American enterprise, but also
hierarchy and complexity. We know that not
all hierarchy is good, but it's also the case that
not all complexity is good. One of the problems
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parametricism is that yes, you can generate a
sorts of complex, varied forms with incredible
precise cuts and contours, but these minute
variations are not all memorable. There is su
a proliferation of complex 3-D-printed forms
generated by so many different algorithms, y
most are so unmemorable that they may as w
be clones. Whereas, consider something like
the Sydney Opera House. What's amazing to
me about this public favorite is that it's a fairl
basic, if unusual, geometric configuration. B

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Alors que la prise de conscience de l'Anthropocène pousse à reconsidérer les relations sujet-objet et humain-nature, l'OOO remet en cause nos modes de perception des objets mais aussi leur nature même. Pour le philosophe Timothy Morton, les choses ne sont pas réductibles au fait d'appartenir à/ ou d'avoir des effets sur d'autres choses, mais possèdent une singularité, une existence et valeur propre. Il réfute également que la pensée – les données scientifiques par exemple – constitue un mode d'accès privilégié aux objets, par rapport aux sens par exemple. Traitant les êtres non humains comme ontologiquement égaux, l'OOO est pour Morton la seule philosophie occidentale incarnant la promesse d'une profonde non-violence envers soi-même et les autres. L'écosystème, cet ensemble de relations entre les créatures, formant lui-même un objet, la question devient la nature de ce système d'interconnexions, qu'il estime être

de l'ordre de la symbiose, jeu d'alliance sans

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*Avec Habiter l'Anthropocène, nous
réalisons que nous entrons dans
une phase de reconsidération*

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entre sujet et objet, humain et nature. Le dilemme collectif de l'Anthropocène l'exige, nous ne pouvons ignorer que nous sommes un tout. Nous essayons maintenant de comprendre les différentes attitudes vis-à-vis du problème, mais aussi les stratégies émergentes pour y faire face. En substance, nous sommes à la recherche d'un endroit duquel considérer le rôle de

l'architecture dans ces économies pratiques et psychosociales. Latour dit : « Nous ne devons pas avoir peur de nos monstres », nous devrions accepter que la nature et les systèmes du vivant soient à ce point tranquils qu'il faudrait aller de l'avant, ne pas avoir peur de la relation entre l'Ontologie Orientée Objet (OOO). Envisagez-vous cette relation et les interactions ?

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Je suis très frappé par cette affirmation de Latour sur le problème puisque la nature a été complètement technologisée. Ça n'aurait été « technologisée » ne signifie pas que le

est justement que l'on peut utiliser ce que l'on
même ou à d'autres êtres. Imaginez que l'on n
platine pur : cela ne fait pas disparaître le pro

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En ce sens, je ne suis pas du tout accélération
un véritable problème, et je pense qu'il faut aller
plus large. C'est une idée bien vague, une sorte
ce mot, que cette façon d'imaginer le monde
s'inscrivant dans une telle narration, on prend
nous depuis une subjectivité future complète
donc toujours un peu là, comme un badaud qui
catastrophe depuis le point de vue du futur.
Par ailleurs, nous sommes à un tel point chim
processus terrestres – les systèmes terrestres
nous disparaissent en tant qu'espèce c'est qu
le point de disparaître ou a déjà disparu ; le m

formidable. Il y a également cette idée que « v une autre disparaissait, alors Mère Nature, G nouvelle entité pour prendre la place de ce qu absurde, comme si les choses n'étaient que le qu'on pouvait les remplacer comme on chan. En ce sens, l'Ontologie Orientée Objet est un de soutenir que les choses ne sont *pas* simple choses, mais qu'elles ont une existence et un choses n'est pas liée au fait qu'elles fassent pa des effets sur d'autres choses, ni même qu'ell très cool. Une flèche en platine serait meilleu les atomes de platine sont plus chers ? Ce n'e Nous affirmons que l'on ne peut réduire les ch toutes singulières, au point qu'elles ont une é face », pour le dire en argot. Elles sont tellem possible de les appréhender complètement p l'on ne peut les enserrer complètement de la par des habits. En fait, on ne peut les appréhe manière que ce soit. C'est tout simplement in signifie ? Que de penser à quelque chose n'es n'importe quel autre mode d'accès est tout au Réfléchir à l'objet, l'effleurer d'un pinceau, le poussière s'y déposer... tout cela est aussi va

où la réflexion, l'épistémologie, et le « comme dans le vrai » sont devenus la question fondamentale. Cette interprétation un peu simpliste de Kant. Nous sommes à l'époque de Kant, il est devenu impossible de pointer vers les choses en elles-mêmes. Nous avons des données, dans le cas du monde scientifique, des qualités sensuelles, pour les non-scientifiques, des données scientifiques soient un meilleur que de l'effleurer du pinceau comme un artiste. science, qui fournit des interprétations de données. C'est la perspective *humeénne* avancée par Kant.

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de dire que la science consiste en l'interprétation des données. En fait, la science ressemble beaucoup à ce qu'on y observe des motifs et des modèles, parce qu'elle ne dira jamais qu'il regarde la réalité, un scientifique. La différence énorme entre science et scientisme est que, pour regarder les choses directement, nous n'avons accès qu'à ce que nous voyons. Kant donne la raison derrière tout cela : bien que nous ne pouvons pas savoir si la lumière est allumée à l'intérieur sans l'ouvrir, on constate que la lumière est allumée sans l'ouvrir. Ce que Kant appelle le « sujet transscendant » est le réfrigérateur. Puis sont venus toute une série de philosophes de différents types d'« ouvreurs de porte de frigo ». Il y a eu un moment de l'histoire politique américaine où l'on a affirmé : « Je suis le décideur, c'est à moi de décider ». D'une certaine façon, Hegel dit aussi : « L'Histoire est la réalisation de la question de savoir si la lumière du réfrigérateur est allumée ou éteinte. » Et Nietzsche : « La volonté de puissance ouvre la porte. » « Le *Dasein* ouvre la porte. » Marx dit quant à lui : « Les luttes entre les hommes ouvrent la porte. » Ce que t

commun, c'est qu'ils se rapportent toujours à des scarabées ouvriers de porte. Bien qu'il soit à l'échelle d'une intelligence extraterrestre, il ne s'agit pas non plus d'ouvriers de portes se rapportant toujours par exemple à la porte de la chambre. Je vous le donne dans le mille : à nous ! Mais, ce qui est qu'effleurer du pinceau ou lécher sont des actions qui ne se rapportent que le fait de penser. L'escargot qui rampe le long d'une porte bien en train d'accéder à cet objet, d'une façon qui n'est pas, est également un ouvrier de frigo.

Il existe une distinction entre ce que Lacan appelle le réel et ce qui est réel. Le véritable est au contraire de la réalité, que l'on peut mettre en rapport avec. Ici un énorme paradoxe dont même Kant a parlé. C'est d'avantage encore, qui est que les choses sont telles qu'elles sont, mais jamais exactement comme elles apparaissent. C'est celui des gouttes de pluie. Elles nous tombent sur la tête, éclaboussent et sont en tout point des gouttes de pluie pour les yeux ou de gouttes de jus de citron pour le nez. D'un autre côté, aucune donnée caractéristique d'une goutte d'eau, éclaboussant, mouillé, embêtant, agréable...

Il n'est pas la goutte de pluie. Il s'agit de données sur lesquelles se pose le véritable problème qui est que les données

la goutte de pluie... mais où est la goutte de pl
bizarrement paradoxales, un peu comme les
qui peuvent mentir et dire la vérité en même

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mais seulement parce que nous cherchons à non-contradiction » – de la section Gamma d n'a jamais été formellement prouvée. Il existe aux choses d'être contradictoires et néanmoins Je me base sur cette logique pour affirmer qu comme elles sont mais jamais comme elles ap pour les notions de nature et d'écologie est qu ces apparences que nous pourrions appeler « la nature comme quelque chose qui serait là- ADN par exemple, ou quelque part là-haut da dans le passé quand nous étions encore « nat maintenant « artificiels »... C'est toujours plu

ce qui précisément pose problème, parce que de la séparation que nous avons intégrée par. Ce n'est pas juste un concept philosophique. les choses y sont considérées comme des aggs qui sont ensuite décorées, comme on enrobe c'est qu'il est assez évident que cette idée est ce que l'on souhaite de la façon dont on le sou idée, qui est l'idée kantienne, c'est que les ch lesquels se projettent les désirs – historiques économiques... Ce qui est probablement pire Il y a une dimension assez sadique à traiter le vierge sur lequel on projetterait ses désirs, où à tout ce que l'on veut. C'est encore pire chez entre les phénomènes, les données et les cho du sujet. C'est à nous qu'il revient de décider qu'est la réalité. Il n'y a même plus de fossé. L philosophie occidentale – dans la lignée de la dans ces eaux. L'unique dont je peux me reve la même importance aux êtres non-humains ainsi la promesse d'une profonde non-violen êtres. Et souvenez-vous que nous sommes au humains. Se considérer comme intrinsèque

sans bactéries ou ADN mitochondrial, est en
un acte de violence.

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*N'est-il pas étonnant que l'OOO se focalise s
indépendante à un moment où tout est cens
le devenir encore plus ?*

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Quand vous dites « objet », pensez à un miroir : vous y voyez le pire qui puisse arriver à une personne. J'en dit long sur notre idée de ce que sont les objets muets, qu'ils n'ont pas de faculté d'action, qu'ils

n'est pas du tout ce que l'OOO affirme. Ce qui
c'est qu'un objet ressemble davantage à un li
les mains, vous y accrocher, c'est en perman
les doigts. Rappelez-vous également que l'éco
relations entre des créatures différentes, est
choses peuvent aussi être des objets pour l'O
biosphère est un objet, la relation entre vous
un faux problème : nous ne sommes pas en tr
et solides en affirmant que tout le reste est fa
disons, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une façon de mettre
leur faire violence. Peut-être que tout est inte
est d'une part de savoir comment, et par aille
interconnexion. Pour moi il s'agit à l'évidenc
le terme utilisé dans les sciences du vivant. L

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La symbiose est une relation épineuse parce qu'elle ne permet pas de déterminer qui ou quoi vient en tête. Il s'y détermine une relation entre l'hôte et l'être qui est hébergé. Le mot *symbiosis* vient du latin et pouvait désigner aussi bien un parasite qu'un hôte. Il fait partie du concept, ce qui a conduit Derrida à dire qu'héberger dépend d'une ouverture à ce qui est autre, à ce qui est inconnaissable et différent. Une sorte de *futur* qui n'est pas en substance ce que nous disons au sujet des choses. Un lapin dans un écosystème... – possède une

Derrida dirait une *futuralité*, qui est difficile
la signification d'une pièce de musique ? On n'a
cette pièce de musique n'en est pas une autre
l'apparence ou le format, comme vous voulez
Et d'une certaine façon, c'est le passé.

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*L'architecture moderne avait tendance à co
comme de beaux objets, des sculptures. Dev*

*nos bâtiments davantage comme des organes
comme des métabolismes au sein d'autres nœuds
composants vivants et sensibles ?*

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Je le pense en effet. Nous savons tout d'abord que les
bâtiments, que nous devons désormais prévoir et concevoir
seulement utilisés par des êtres humains. De plus, la
poussière va s'y déposer, des oiseaux vont s'y poser, et
de choses n'impliquant pas d'êtres humains. Nous ne pouvons
aujourd'hui considérer ces êtres non-humains comme des
ils font déjà partie d'un espace social, et que leur présence
été complètement humain. D'une certaine façon, c'est à un
moment où les êtres humains se rendent d'un lieu à un autre
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ingularité des choses
Timothy Morton

espèce dans un sens non essentialiste, ce qui et qui réalisent enfin qu'ils ont des effets non représentent une force géophysique à l'échelle c'est résolument un moment où les êtres humains patriarcaux occidentaux – doivent finalement sur cette terre à prendre en compte quand ils pensent et conçoivent des œuvres d'art ou de Attardons-nous sur ce point : comment se faire vie puissent accéder au bâtiment de différence que cela puisse arriver ? Parce que le bâtiment curieusement en train de se cacher à lui-même à lui-même. Il y a une dynamique interne, pe

qu'on s'installe dessus. Il s'agit, en soi, d'un être qui n'a jamais été poussé. C'est l'hypothèse formulée par les organismes vivantes par elles-mêmes, sans avoir besoin d'être poussés. Et que la vie est un ainsi un entre-deux *frémissements* entre deux choses différentes, la non-existence absolue et le tout. À cette certaine manière, j'ai l'impression que la notion de la totalité intégrante de la vision des choses selon l'OOO est une chose étrange où se trouve la vie. L'ontologie est l'étude de ce qui existe. Il ne s'agit pas d'un dogme au sujet de la vérité, comme des théologiens ou politiciens. L'ontologie s'intéresse à la manière dont les choses existent. Je dois être conscient, mais cela ne signifie pas que je pense qu'ils existent. Les choses sont en mouvement sans être poussées. C'est pour laquelle nous avons du mouvement, du changement, des choses qui se passent avec les bâtiments. Au-delà de ces choses, lesquels un échange énergétique se produit, mais elle est coupée de toute sorte d'échange avec quoi que ce soit. À cet instant précis que la physique observe ce qui elle ne prévoyait qu'il serait observable, à savoir qu'il y a du mouvement et immobile, vibration et absence de vibration hors de soi, comme condition de possibilité d'existence. Les philosophes humains ont pensé qu'il existait

mêmes, ces choses s'appelant des êtres humains possèdent cette existence extatique où l'homme se jette hors de soi, en train de dégringoler dans le futur américain en forme de ressort à qui l'on peut

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Vous adoptez une approche esthétique principalement artistique, ce qui constitue un aspect important. Lorsque vous concevez un bâtiment, vous devriez considérer le bâtiment métabolique comme quelque chose de mesurable et contrôlable, la même manière que l'on peut contrôler la température.

*organisme. Cela vous paraît-il entrer en con
poésie ou votre beauté ?*

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M

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Non, pas du tout. D'ailleurs, assez curieusement
sein de l'esthétique, qui est un tout petit dom
affirmons que la dimension esthétique est en
causale. Soulever des choses, les mesurer, s'a
a donc une dimension esthétique. Cela ne s'e
science repose sur la philosophie – Hume et K
qu'on ne peut pas enlever comme une épluch
chose. Et que la causalité n'est pas une sorte d
causalité est à *l'avant* – nous entendons par c
pas un à *l'avant* mesurable. Et nous appelons

la dimension esthétique. C'est là que se trouve le problème à passer d'une interprétation de quelque chose qui ressemble davantage à de l'habituel parce que, selon une perspective plus de formes d'appréciation esthétique. Nous ne savons que tout était relatif, qu'il n'y avait pas de vérité peut être dans le vrai, avoir raison, avoir une vérité réelles, et elles sont vraiment exactement correctes et il n'y a rien à redire à cela.

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What we found in Inhabiting the Anthropocene is that we are obviously in a phase of multidisciplinary reconsideration of the relationship between object and subject, between human and nature. Our collective Anthropocene dilemma demands it.

We cannot ignore that we are a whole. We are hoping to better understand the different attitudes toward the problem and the emergent strategies for dealing with it. Essentially, we seek a place from which to view the role of architecture in these practical and psychosocial economies. Bruno Latour wrote, “We shouldn’t be afraid of our monsters.” He was saying that we should accept that nature and living systems are already completely changed by technology, and that we should not be afraid. We are therefore considering the relationship

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(OOO) and ecology. How do you see this
relationship and the interactions that*

take place within it?

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thing that Latour said—that
there's no problem since
nature has already been fully

technologized. I think in a way just because something has been technologized it doesn't mean that the problem has gone away. The problem is that one might use the thing they want to technologize to harm oneself or other beings. So, you could imagine we have created the perfect arrow—it's made of platinum, but that doesn't make the problem of shooting people go away. I'm not an accelerationist at all. I think there's a whole problem with that and a wider sort of angle to take. It's like a kind of idea or a meme—if I can use that word

imagining the world without us. The trouble is that when you read that narrative, you have a point of view on the world without us from some impossible future subjectivity. So, it's sort of with you to some extent. It's sort of like you are sadistically rubbernecking the catastrophe from the point of view of the future.

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As our growing awareness of the Anthropocene drives us to re-evaluate our relationships, object-oriented ontology (OOO) challenges the anthropocentric perspective. For philosopher Timothy Morton, things cannot be reduced to human use.

things, but rather possess an inherent uniqueness, existence
scientific data—constitutes a privileged way of accessing

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human beings as ontologically equal, for Morton OOO is t
of a profound non-violence toward oneself and others. Th
itself forms an object, with the question becoming the na
that he estimates as being of the order of symbiosis, an in

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The other point is that we are so chemically interlocked with Earth processes right now with Earth systems, and other life forms—that if we go extinct it either means everything else is about to go extinct or everything else did just go extinct, so the world without us isn't great. And then of course there's this idea that "you know if we or some species go extinct then Mother Nature or Gaia or whatever will just evolve a new entity to take the place of the thing that disappeared." You are imagining that things are components of a machine and that they are expendable, because when your car tire bursts you can replace the tire with a different one.

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So, the thing about Object-Oriented Ontology is that it's actually claiming that things are *not* just components of other things. They have their own unique existence and value from their own side. Things aren't important because they are parts of other things, or have effects on other things, or are made of really cool things. Like an arrow made of platinum—it's better than an arrow made of wood because the platinum atoms are more expensive, or something like that. That's not the point. We say you can't reduce things to other things. Everything is really unique and in fact things are so unique that they are—in the Americanism—"in your face." They are so "in your face" that you can't wrap your mind around them completely. And in fact, you can't actually wrap your fingers

around them completely. And you can't wrap
your clothes around them completely. And y
can't wrap anything around them completely.
And the other thing is that nothing can. What
does this mean? This means that thinking ab
something is no longer the top access mode.
Any other access mode is just as good or bad
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So, thinking about the object, brushing
against it, ignoring it, allowing dust to fall on
it—all these things are just as good as each
other. We have been living in this world when
thinking, and epistemology, and *how do I kn*

that I'm right? has become the issue: and the reason why is that there's been this slightly one-sided interpretation of Kant. What we're arguing is that since the age of Kant it's been impossible to say that we can directly point to things in themselves. What we can point to is data, as science calls it, or experiences or sensual qualities if you're not a scientist. Again, there's no reason why the scientific data is getting at the thing better than brushing against it as an artist. This isn't to disparage science. Science is actually incredibly accurate at interpreting patterns in data. This is the *Humean* point that Kant gives you—it's the reason why Hume is correct that science is statistical interpretation of patterns in data. Actually, science is very much like art criticism because you are looking at patterns. You're not looking at reality. No scientist would ever say "I'm looking at reality." Only a *scientific* person would say "I'm looking at reality," and there is a very big difference between science and scientism. So, we can't know things direct

we can only know data.

Now Kant gives you the reason why, which is that although there are real things, they do become reality until something—and he thinks that thinking is the way that it's done—accesses them. It's like the problem of the light in the refrigerator—you can't know if the light is on in the refrigerator without opening the door. For Kant, what he calls the transcendental subject is the fridge opener. Then along come a number of successors to Kant who posit different kinds of fridge openers or deciders.

There was a moment in American political history very recently when George Bush said, "I'm the decider, I get to decide who goes to Iraq." But also in a way Hegel is saying, "History is the decider about whether the light is on in the refrigerator. History opens the door." And Nietzsche is saying, "Will to power opens the door." Heidegger is saying, "*Dasein* opens the door." Marx is saying, "Human economic relations open the door." What all these doors

openers have in common is that they are always keyed to human beings. There are no beetle door openers. Even though it's quite likely that there are extraterrestrial intelligent beings, they are not the door openers either. It's always usually by default keyed to—drum roll, you guessed it—us. But the point is that brushing against and licking are equally good access modes as thinking. So, actually a snail crawling along the surface of an object is also accessing that object in an incomplete way—the snail is also a fridge opener.

There's a distinction between what Lacan calls *the real* and *reality*, which is the feeling that it's real. The actual real you can't grasp, but you can grasp reality because you are able to correlate it to the real. There is an amazing paradox here which even Kant is frightened of and many other philosophers are even more frightened of, which is that things are exactly how they are yet never exactly as they appear. And Kant's example is raindrops. The

raindrops are falling on your head; they are wet and splashy and raindroppy. They are not gumdrops. They are not chocolate drops. They are raindrops. On the other hand, none of the raindrop data—splashy, wet, irritating, nice, this big, this speed—is the raindrop. It's raindrop data. So there's this big problem, which is that the raindrop data is about the raindrop, but where's the raindrop? Things are weirdly paradoxical, a little bit like tricksters in some first peoples' cultures. They can lie and tell the truth at the same time, which seems illogical, but only because we have been trying to obey this rule called the law of noncontradiction that has never been formally proven. It's in section Gamma of the *Metaphysics* of Aristotle. And some logic can allow things to be contradictory.

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things are exactly as they are but never how t
appear. What this means actually for the noti
of nature of and ecology is that there's nothing
different underneath the appearances that w
could call nature. We usually think of nature
something that's over there somewhere. Like
somewhere in my DNA somewhere, somewh

in the mountains over there. Somewhere back in the past where we used to be natural and now we're artificial. It's always sort of "over there," and that's a problem, precisely because it's very similar to this default idea that we have in Western culture. It's not just a philosophical concept—built spaces act out this concept, which is that things are basically lumps of blank extension decorated with qualities just like candy coating. The trouble with that is that it's quite obvious that this idea is perfect for manipulating anything you want, however you want. And the upgrade of that idea, which is the Kantian idea that things are blank screens for historical, human, *dasein*, multi-power, human-economic relations desire projection might be even worse.

There's something quite sadistic about treating a thing as a blank screen for desire projection purposes so that you can do anything to anything. It gets even worse in Hegel, because Hegel says this whole gap between phenomena

data—and real things is only happening inside the subject, so there is no gap. We get to decide exact reality completely. There's not even a gap. So OOO is the first Western philosophy

in the lineage of Deconstruction—which is beginning to go there. It's the only Western philosophy that I've discovered that I can live with, because it's the only one that treats non

human beings as equally important as human beings, and also that holds out the promise of profound non-violence toward ourselves and other beings. And remember we're also made up of these non-human beings. Thinking of ourselves as intrinsically, essentially human without bacteria and mitochondrial DNA is also wrong. When we think that way we are also doing violence this way too.

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When you say “object,” think of a mirror.

When you look in the mirror, you see the worst possible thing that could happen to a person

they become objectified. That says a lot about our idea about what objects are. We think they're mute. We think they have no agency. We think they're static. We think they're solid. We think they're isolated. This is actually not what OOO is saying at all. What OOO is actually saying is that an object is more like a liquid. It's like you can't put your hands in it. You can't completely hold on to it. It's always slipping out of your grasp. Remember that the ecosystem, which is a set of relations between different beings, is also an object. Groups of things can also be objects for OOO. Gaia is an object, the

biosphere is an object, the relationship between you and me is an object. So, there's no real problem—we're not isolating static solid things and saying everything else is wrong or untrue or unreal. We're actually saying that this is how you get things to interrelate without doing violence to them. So, ok, maybe everything is interconnected, but the question is how? What is the nature of this interconnection? I think it is quite obviously—the word for it in life science is—symbiosis. Things are interconnected

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Now symbiosis is an uneasy relationship because it's never possible to determine who or what is the top being. There's some kind of uneasy alliance happening there, between the host and the being that is being hosted. It's interesting to look at the word itself, "host," which comes from a Latin word that could mean both friend and enemy. That uneasiness is part of this concept, and it's the same sense that drove Derrida to write, in his essay "Hostipitality," that hosting depends upon an openness toward something completely unknowable and different happening. Some kind of radically open *futurality*. This is basically what we say about things. We say that anything—an ecosystem, a rabbit in an ecosystem—has a kind of ungraspable, *futural*—Derrida would say—quality to it that you can't pin down. Like, what's the meaning of a piece of music? You can't hold on to it, nevertheless this piece of music is not that

piece of music. On the other hand, the form, the appearance, the format—whatever you want to say—is extremely determined. And in a way, that's the past.

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Modern architecture used to look at buildings as beautiful objects, like sculptures. Should we conceive our

*buildings more like living organisms,
think of them as metabolisms inside
other metabolisms, with living, sentient*

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know that when we make buildings we have to allow for the fact that not only humans are going to use them. Frogs are going to jump on to them, dust is going to settle on them, birds are going to fly into them. All kinds of things are going to happen that don't involve human beings. And making a building now, designing a building, needs to be done with regard to these non-human beings as well. Because in a certa

way they are already inside social space and therefore social space was never completely human in the first place. In a way, that's the Anthropocene. It's two things: it's human beings noticing that they are a species in a very non

essentialist way, in a way that isn't nice or fun, but finally realizing we have unintended effects on the planet, we are a geophysical force on a planetary scale. On the other hand, it's decisively a moment at which human beings in particular white Western patriarchal human beings, finally have to admit that there are other entities on this Earth that need to be taken into account when we act, for example when we think and do art and make buildings

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Back to the point: how come different life forms can access the building in different ways? How come that can happen? That's because the building itself is kind of weirdly hiding from itself at the same time as it's revealing itself to itself. There's an inner dynamic no matter whether it gets lived in, or settled on. In and of itself, it is a quivering, vibrating being without ever being pushed. That's what OOO is saying.

that things are alive all by themselves without needing to be pushed mechanically. Life itself is a *quivering* in-between two different types of death. There's completely not existing, and there's mechanically churning around. And there's this sort of weird in-between point where you find life. Somehow, I feel like movement is built into the OOO view of how things are. Ontology is the study of how things exist. It's not dogma about *what* exists. That's for other people like theologians and politicians. Ontology is about the deep structure of how

things exist. I have to use lots of examples, but it doesn't mean I believe they really exist. Things are in motion without being pushed and that's why we can have movement, that's why we can have change and all the other things that happen to buildings. Even above and beyond the metabolic processes where there is an energy exchange happening, even if a thing is completely cut off from any kind of exchange with anything else, in fact precisely at that moment, physics observes what Object-Oriented Ontology is predicting would observe, which is that a thing is moving and still at the same time. It's vibrating and not vibrating simultaneously. It's a little bit out in front of itself as a condition of possibility for existing. Lots and lots of human philosophers have thought that there are things that are a little bit out in front of themselves—those things are called human beings. Heidegger thinks that the human being has this ecstatic existence where it is slightly outside of itself all the time, tumbling into the future like a 'Slinky'—an

American toy that is like a helix of metal that
you make go down the stairs as if it's walking.
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*You are taking a primarily poetical
and artistic aesthetic approach, which
is an important part of architecture.
If you were designing a building then
you would have to consider that this*

*dimension of metabolism is something
that is measurable with data in the
same way your body can be monitored
for blood pressure. Is that not a
contradiction with your poetry or*

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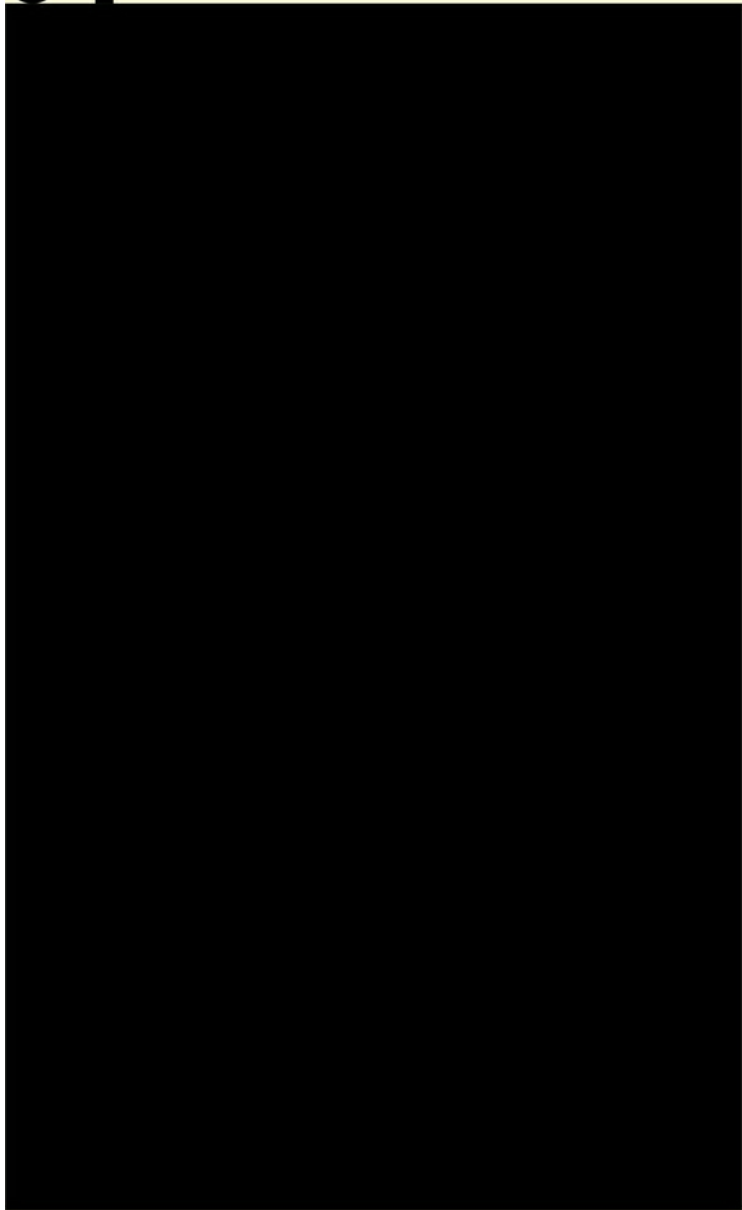
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No, not at all. In fact, funnily enough, we've been confining art within the aesthetic, to a very small region of reality, whereas in fact what we are arguing is that the aesthetic dimension is where the causality is. Lifting things up, measuring things, making sure the metabolism is working in a good way is actually part of an aesthetic space. It's not different from it. In fact, science is based on philosophy—Hume and Kant—they are actually arguing that you can't peel the appearance away from what a thing is. And that causality isn't a kind of a machinery underneath appearances. Causality is *in front*. And we call *in front* ontologically *in front*, not measurably *in front*. And we call this space in front of things the aesthetic dimension. That's where the causality is. So there's no problem with moving from extremely accurate data interpretation to something more like aesthetic

appreciation in the standard sense because, in a larger way, both of them are forms of aesthetic appreciation. The point is that we've been saying to ourselves that everything is relative and there is no truth. The way I'm saying it is that actually you can be true, you can be right, you can have an accurate measurement, there are real things, and they really are exactly as they are and you can measure them and it's o

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Dans Homo Labyrinthus : humanisme,

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*démontrez que nous n'avons cessé
d'être humanistes, dans la société
occidentale tout du moins. Pourriez*

vous expliciter cette idée ?

Tout dépend, bien entendu, de la définition que l'on donne de l'humanisme. Or le problème avec cette notion est qu'elle est sujette à un processus constant de réinterprétation, ce processus étant sans doute lié au fait que l'humanisme fût d'abord une interprétation rétroactive: More, de même qu'Erasme, n'utilise pas le terme d'humanisme, tous deux parlent d'*umanista*, terme désignant le professeur de grammaire, de rhétorique. Quand on parle d'humanisme, on ne cesse d'introduire dans le passé une chose qui n'y était pas, et l'on s'invente une humanité telle qu'elle aurait dû être. L'humanisme, c'est

l'humain qui se rêve capable d'être ce qu'il
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Ce rêve veut dire trois choses. Premiè

rement, que l'humanisme est une notion pla

tique, soumise à réinterprétations : on parler
ainsi de l'humanisme de la Renaissance, ou
de celui la modernité anthropocentrée qui
s'affirme avec Bacon et Descartes au XVII^e si
des Lumières au XVIII^e siècle, ou de celui d'u

siècle. Deuxièmement, que l'humain de l'humain
comme un être en devenir, toujours capable
ce qui relie la position de Pic de la Mirandole à
dit Pic de la Mirandole, est un « caméléon » qu
oui, ajoutera Sartre, il choisit son mode d'exist
des êtres humains consiste à se refaire tel qu'
que « l'homme », comme le soutenait Foucault
sur le sable, c'est que l'effacement est seulem
sisyphéen qui conduit l'être humain d'un vis
autre, d'une société vers une autre.

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de catastrophe ? Au risque du monopole et du cauchemar technologique, il oppose des « alliances non fusionnelles ». Associées à la figure du labyrinthe, ces alliances forment ce qu'il qualifie d'« antihumanisme », un nouvel existentialisme permettant de réussir le nécessaire dépassement de l'humanisme tout en évitant les fausses sorties

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En parlant d'« homo labyrinthus », j'ai voulu le seul moyen de faire cesser cette compulsive transformation, ce surmoi harassant qui exige qu'on a été hier afin d'alimenter le Moloch ca est de laisser béant l'écart entre deux formes. Laisser béant cet écart signifie ne pas tourner déconstitue incessamment l'humain en une passagère. L'être humain labyrinthique est c à l'ordre, se sert du premier pour desserrer la labyrinthe règne l'inhumanité qui empêche l lui-même, c'est-à-dire un être qui se refait en le labyrinthe, Narcisse est apaisé.

Nous ne serions pas près de quitter cette voie ne représentant pas un « après-humanisme d'humanisme. Pourriez-vous développer ce

techniques », plutôt qu'estomper le fossé cre « nature », vous paraissent-ils l'aggraver ?

Si mon approche du terme d'humanisme est trop nombreuses propositions dites posthuman de l'humanisme. L'idée selon laquelle le post et l'humanisme sur une essence immuable à Erasme, qui affirmait que, humain, on ne « na « devient ». Le posthumanisme est, hélas, bien le manque de résistance au réquisit moderne. L'appel au changement permanent est double séparation nature-technique, nature-techno fut nécessaire, et il l'est encore, de s'opposer façon étanche l'être humain et la nature, env facteur de production – je renvoie sur ce dern Moore consacrées à la manière dont la modern s'est fabriquée une « nature pas chère »¹, plas qu'un travailleur devrait l'être selon la loi-tra président Macron et ses ministres humaniste au clivage cartésien-capitaliste qui mène tou

à l'intensification des ouragans et autres ravages
forcenée, c'est-à-dire abolir toute séparation.
D'une part, il faut toujours se demander *qui* a
« organismes-techniques », comme vous dites
de la Silicon Valley, une pléiade d'humains, a
sur le plan du sujet de la production, ce qu'elle
l'objet produit ! Quand on abolit le fossé entre
d'ensevelir dans le fossé un *spyware*, porte de
surveillance grâce auxquels on saura, en tout
big data indispensables à votre bonheur – sur
à chaque fois que l'on s'interroge sur des figures

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donne les ordres : qui ou quoi, dans le cyborg ?
D'autre part, en quoi la fusion humain-machine est-elle
soi mieux que leur clivage ? David Cronenberger, dans
La Mouche, a bien vu que la fusion humain-technique

technologie, pouvait virer au cauchemar.
Cependant, les critiques que j'adresse ici ne concernent pas
la relation humain-technique, mais à la penser comme
comme nocives, comme rencontre établissant une
d'intensité apte à redistribuer leurs existences.
qui n'a pas oublié son inhumanité, mais la fait passer
à quelque chose qui échappe aux instances humaines.
Un exemple ? Quasimodo ! Il y avait, nous dit-on,
« entre » Notre-Dame et la souffrante créature une
d'affinités matérielles », que « la rugueuse cathédrale
« vibre » avec la cloche qu'il sonne. Ce qui apparaît
entre Quasimodo et Notre-Dame, ce n'est pas
un gadget de bio-art, c'est une métaphore : non, ce n'est pas
la réalité enfin promue au statut de rêve. Or la fiction
exige que quelque chose ne soit pas réalisé, ou du moins
ou l'inconstruit, au lieu du fossé entre nature et

laissée vacante, la place de la métaphore. Place
le lieu sans lieu dont toute ville a le secret dés
*Vous revendiquez la nécessité d'un nouvel ordre
une politique des existences, des singularités
formes de vie (suivant Wittgenstein). Qu'en
nouvel existentialisme s'inscrit-il dans la li*
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J'emploie l'expression antihumanisme pour
ou afin d'éviter la fausse sortie du posthumai
moi une fin en soi, ce terme ne décrit pas un r
qui est requis pour parvenir à un monde qui r
L'antihumanisme promeut donc le labyrinthe
ce que nous avons dû oublier pour demeurer
comme rencontre par laquelle des singularités

mêmes. Ce qu'il s'agit à chaque fois de saisir,
Or le terme d'existence doit être pris, étymologiquement

dehors. Un être ne commence pas par être en
d'aller hors de lui-même. Il faut plutôt tenir q
hors de soi. Tout commence dehors. Et c'est a
arrivent, ou n'arrivent pas – des rencontres, c
rien. Mon but n'est donc pas de concevoir des
puisque ce terme, emprunté au latin *modus*,
« modération », alors même que l'existence s
qui est pour n'avoir pas été seulement mesur
faire, c'est plutôt de voir comment le fait sans

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vivant, ou en intelligence artificielle, ou en Q
comme, *quasi modo*, mais jamais quelqu'un
et bête et humain – chevauchant la cloche de
Mais la liste que je commence ici – être vivant
fracturée, elle ne suppose aucune équivalence
radicalisé que je propose ne peut dès lors être
et pour deux raisons au moins. Premièrement
veut dire récuser toute idée d'ontologie « pre
l'être, ne peut être que seconde, elle est le reg
sur les strates de l'existence, la géologie spéc
l'ontologie, afin d'en faire dériver l'existence
mesurer et museler l'existence au nom de l'ê

défait toute velléité ontologique. C'est angoissant et cela fait du vivant tout autre chose qu'un « être ». On n'appeliez ainsi ce qui médite de vous dévorer. Deuxièmement, poser d'abord la survenue de la mort, une platitude : exister, c'est commencer par ouvrir une brèche selon laquelle la modernité a conduit à tout autre chose que c'est-à-dire l'idée des vainqueurs. Mais la perte de l'été vaincu, refoulé, ce qui n'a pas pu exister. Ce qui a consisté à faire descendre le Ciel sur la Terre, à aplatir la transcendance ; mais on peut aussi parler d'une tendance, refoulée, celle qui a consisté à promouvoir le « noble », comme le disait Nicolas de Cues, à élire une existence singulière, ou plutôt excentrique, à ne pas une essence, ni un objet, mais, comme je le propose, un champ qui objecte à tout ce qui réduit son champ. Je ne peux m'accorder avec les ontologies plates, mais je ne rejette pas toutes les tendances du réalisme, mais la philosophie de Iain Hamilton Grant et attendez-vous à la lecture de Steven Shaviro – pour ne prendre que ces deux auteurs. S'il n'y a que des trajets, le vivant est l'un d'eux, celui qui résiste à l'intact, à l'indemne, à l'intouchable, à plus rien. Je joue ici avec la formule de Bichard : « les fonctions qui résistent à la mort ». Mais la mort

pour que le vivant résiste à ce qui l'empêche d'être
une fois contre toute équivalence, une forme
généralisé, qui soutient que tout est vivant, non
que la vie est plus que la matière et qu'elle ne se réduit
aux sciences physiques, mais ce vitalisme qui, pour moi, n'est
une « exigence » qu'une « doctrine » : un vitalisme existentiel.
Ce vitalisme existentiel refuse certes l'axiome de l'équivalence
est ouvert l'espace de ce qui peut être promu à la dignité de vie.
avant tout est de choisir son camp : « plutôt la vie que la matière »
une position éthique qui implique une hiérarchie entre la vie et la matière
qui refuse de mettre en équivalence toutes les formes de vie.

est ce qui s'oppose à tout ce qui nous fait une
pense pas qu'il soit possible de choisir le cam
la domination (l'Homme de l'Anthropocène,
de la matière – tout est matière ? Bon, et puis
éco-centrique ne peut se constituer comme t
éthique soucieuse de la mise en péril du vivan
les conditions économiques, sociales, politic
de destruction volontaire de l'environnemen
Ce n'est qu'à partir de ce vitalisme que je peu
technologies : quelles technologies favorisen
alliance technique permettra à Quasimodo d
malheur ? Quel art saura célébrer la manière
vivant, se percevoir et – pourquoi pas – jouir d
l'existence est ce qui se doit de répondre à ces
de propositions ou d'interdictions de constru

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Vous publiez un nouvel ouvrage autour de l'atopie. A-t-il évolué depuis que vous l'utilisez ? Les conditions contemporaines vous semblent-ils donner à votre réflexion sur l'extérieur ?

Atopias: Manifesto for a Radical Existential est d'un ouvrage d'abord publié en français⁵. Ce qui à notre discussion est de saisir que le dehors n'est pas un dehors là-bas qui s'opposerait à un dedans inversée – ce dehors qui me fait être ici, à la relation là-bas. Une telle condition, atopique, littérale d'errance originaire, qui ne considère une maison, veux dire ce qui tient lieu de dedans.

C'est peut-être à cause de la croyance qu'ont les « leur » pays, « leur » nation, et de voir arriver les êtres humains à la recherche d'un refuge fini. Pour briser cette croyance, il serait nécessaire une condition constitutive, c'est-à-dire que quelque chose est sans-lieu. Oui, le vivant que nous connaissons coupe les racines, ou les plonge dans le ciel, fait. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il ne faut pas se constituer un nid, mais cela veut dire que l'être vivant a d'abord une vie favorable que ce milieu n'est qu'une situation.

nous protège de l’immensité du sombre univers.
Angoisse et merveille de l’existence dévolue
une condition que je me suis proposé d’étudier
à l’horreur. Court traité des interruptions m

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In Homo Labyrinthus : humanisme,
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show that we never stopped being humanist. Could you explain this idea?

It all depends of course on one's definition of humanism. The problem with this notion is that it is subjected to a constant process of reinterpretation, this process being no doubt linked to the fact that humanism was first a retroactive interpretation. Thomas More, like Erasmus before him, did not use the term humanism, with both of them speaking of *umanista*, a term that describes the professor of grammar, of rhetoric. When we speak of humanism, we keep introducing something

into the past that was never really there, and we invent a humanity for ourselves such as it should have been. Humanism is the human who dreams that he is capable of being what he should have been.

This dream means three things. Firstly, that humanism is a malleable notion, subject to reinterpretations. One can thus speak of the humanism of the Renaissance, that of anthropocentric modernity that was successfully established with Bacon and Descartes in the seventeenth century, that of the autonomous subject of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, or that of a godless human being in the

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that the human in humanism
is himself considered as a being
in becoming, always capable
of being something other than

what he is, and this is what links the position of Pico della Mirandola to that of Sartre: the human being, says Pico della Mirandola, is a “chameleon” who must “freely complete his form”; yes, adds Sartre, he chooses his way of existing. Thirdly, that the future of human beings consists of remaking themselves as they had wanted to be: it is not that “man,” as defended by Foucault, is a face destined to be erased in the sand, it is that this erasure is a step on the Sisyphean path that drives the human being from one face to the next, from one shape to another, from one society

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When speaking of “homo labyrinthus,”

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The crisis of the environment has led many forms of contemporary thought. The crisis of anthropocentrism comes from humanism, in order to reconnect with nature. The philosopher Frédéric Neyrat considers that what works for his part on developing the figure of a labyrinthine world would use it to loosen the grip of order. Post or trans-humanism is not for him to extend humanism, despite their promises to go beyond technology, human and non-human. Is it necessary to submit to a new divide, that we now know is the source of catastrophe? Risks and opportunities opposes “non-fusional alliances.” Associated with the figure of the post-human as “anti-humanism,” a new existentialism that allows us to

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were in the past in order to feed the capitalist Moloch and its accelerationist drive, is to leap the gaping hole between two forms, between the faces of the human. To leave this gap wide open means not transforming the indeterminacy that constantly makes and unmakes the human into a new determination, itself temporary. The labyrinthine human being is one who, instead of subjecting chaos to order, uses the former to loosen the grip of the latter. Within the labyrinth, the inhumanity that prevents human being from taking himself for himself reigns, in other words a being that remakes itself to the complete loss of its own image. In the labyrinth, Narcissus has been appeased. *We are not even close to moving away from this path, with post-humanism not representing an “after-humanism” but even more humanism. Can you expand on this idea? Rather than removing the gulf that has been hollowed out between man and “nature,” do “technical*

bodies” seem to you to have made it

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If my approach to the word humanism is correct, then it is clear that too many so called post humanist propositions are nothing more than extensions of humanism. The idea, for example, according to which post humanism would be founded on the future of humanism on the contrary, on an immutable essence, was quite surprising to Erasmus, who claimed that we are not “born” a human, but rather “become” one. Posthumanism is alas, far too often a term that covers the absence of resistance to the modern requirement for permanent change.

The permanent call to change is accompanied by the promise that consists of going beyond the separation between nature and technique, nature and technology, and human and non-human. It was, and continues to be, necessary to oppose the western divide that consists of creating an airtight separation between the human being on one hand and nature on the other, with the latter being seen as a “resource” or a factor of production—on this point I refer to the analyses of Jason W. Moore, dedicated to the way in which capital modernity, the “capitalocene,” has created “inexpensive nature,”¹ which is also malleable as flexible as a worker should be according to the labor law currently being prepared by President Macron and his humanist minister. The question is to know whether, in place of the Cartesian-capitalist divide that leads directly to climate change, the intensification

of hurricanes, and to further havoc, one must substitute a forcible hybridization, in other words, abolish all separation.

On one hand, one must always ask who is producing the “technical bodies,” as you call them. If it is a laboratory, a Silicon Valley industry, or a myriad of humans, then the fabrication itself retains, when it comes to the subject and production, what it claims to go beyond with regard to the object being produced! When we abolish the gap between human and non-human, we risk filling it with spyware, a backdoor, surveillance software, a surveillance cable, thanks to which we will be able to, in all humanity, gather all of the big data on you that is essential to your happiness

on amazon.com. Thus, when questioning the figures of the post human, it is necessary to know who is giving the orders: who or what, within the cyborg, is at the helm. On the other hand, how are the human-machine or mice

technology alliances inherently better than their separation? In *Videodrome* as in *The Fly*, David Cronenberg clearly saw that the fusion of human and technology, or even of human, animal, and technology, could quickly become a

However, the criticisms that I am making here are in no way a refusal of the relationship between humans and technology, but rather to be considered as a *non-fusional alliance*, a marriage, an encounter that establishes a field

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of intensity between the instances at stake, one that is in a position to redistribute their existences. My post human is a para human who has not forgotten his inhumanity, but uses it in the service of happiness, to participate in something that escapes the human and machine-like instances that are solicited.² An example? Quasimodo! There existed, Victor Hugo tells us in *The Hunchback of Notre*

Dame, “between” Notre Dame and the suffering creature “so many magnetic affinities, so many material affinities,” that “the rugged cathedral was his shell.” Quasimodo “vibrated” with the bell that rang, “trembling in unison with the tower from head to toe”. What appears then, in favor of the alliance between Quasimodo and Notre-Dame, is not technological prowess, or a bio-art gadget, but a metaphor: not our dream

that-have-finally-come-true, but reality finally raised to the status of dream. Now the metaphor

held as such requires that something remain unachieved, or not built. The unachieved, or unbuilt, instead of proposing a gap between nature and human beings, proposes a place to be left vacant, the place of the metaphor. Metaphor Square, could this be the place of no place that the whole city secretly desires?

You advocate the need for a new anti-humanism to drive a politics of existences, of multiple singularities, of different forms of life (according to Wittgenstein). What do you mean by this? Does this new existentialism seem to you to follow in the wake of, or be out of step with, the precepts of flat

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reasons that I have just given: in order not to miss the end of humanism, or in order to avoid the fake end of humanism. Anti humanism is not an end in itself, this term does not describe a desired world, rather it describes what is required to achieve a world that is not that of the capitalocene. Anti humanism promises to go back to the two ideas that I have just mentioned: the labyrinth as a monument in memory of the world which we have had to forget to remain foreign to our own selves, and the alliance as an encounter via which singularities are revealed to be other.

than themselves. What it is important to grasp each time is the singularity of existences.

Whereas the term existence must be taken,

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A being does not begin first by being within itself, before going outside of itself. Rather it is necessary to hold that this being initially exists only outside of oneself. Everything starts outside. And it is outside thus imagined when

things happen, or don't happen—encounter collisions, marriages, or even nothing. My goal then is not to imagine modes of existence, like Latour, because the term, borrowed from the latin *modus*, first means “measure,” then “moderation,” even though existence means without-measure, that which is not only to have been measured but indeed measurable. What I am trying to do, is to see how the baseless fact of existence is stimulated in the living being, or artificial intelligence, or in Quasimodo—who is almost *quasimodo*, but never someone who is identifiable, not human nor animal, and animal and human—straddling the bell of Notre Dame. But the list that I have begun here—the living being, AI, Quasimodo—is a fractured one; it supposes no ontological equivalency. The radicalized existentialism that I propose can therefore be of the order of a flat ontology, and there are at least two reasons for this. First, because starting from existence means rejecting any idea of a “primary” ontology: ontology, the science of being, can only be secondary,

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any ontological tendency. It is at the same time both agonizing and wonderful, and that makes the living something other than a “partner,” unless of course you only use this name to refer to things that contemplate eating you. Secondly, placing the emergence of the existential first is to break all platitudes: to exist is to begin by opening a depth of field. The idea according to which modernity led to everything being flattened is the idea of domination, in other words the idea of the victors. But thinking should provide relief to the vanquished and repressed, that which can never exist. Let me use an example: it is said that the Galilean revolution consisted of bringing heaven down to Earth, of homogenizing laws, flattening transcendence; but we can also place the emphasis on another, repressed, tendency, one that consists of promoting the Earth to the rank of “noble star,” as Nicolas of Cusa said, or elevating the Earth to the level of a singular, or rather eccentric, form of existence. Eccentric

existence is neither an essence, nor an object but rather, as I suggest, a path: the opening of a field that objects to everything that reduces its foundational chasm. Let me add in passing that though I cannot agree with flat ontologies or object-orientated objects, I do not reject the tendencies of so-called speculative realism at all, admiring as I do the philosophy of Iain Hamilton Grant and attentive as I am to the “pan-psychic” research of Steven Shaviro—cite only two examples.³

If there are only paths, then the living is one among them. By living I mean that which resists the intact, the unscathed, the untouched, the state where nothing else can ever happen. Of course, I am playing with Xavier Bichat’s formula here—life as “the set of functions which resist death.” But I think that death could be a considerable ally to help the living to resist that which stops it resisting.

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against all equivalency, a form of vitalism. Not
generalized vitalism, that claims that everything
is alive, nor a restrained vitalism, that claims
that life is nothing more than matter and that
it can only be explained through the use of
the physical sciences, but rather this vitalism
that, for Georges Canguilhem, was more
a “requirement” than a “doctrine”: an ethical

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This existential vitalism rejects the axiom that everything is alive. However, the space of that which can be promoted to the rank of living is opened. What counts above all is for one to choose one's side: "rather life," said André Breton. It is an ethical position that

implies a hierarchy, an affirmative position that refuses to place all things on the same level: existentialist vitalism is opposed to everything that makes life impossible. However, I don't think that it is possible to choose the side of Everything—that is the ideology of domination (Anthropocene Man, etc.)—or to propose an ethics of matter—everything is matter? Okay, what then? I even think that an ecocentric ethics can only be constituted in this way by starting with an ethical priority concerned with the threat to the living, this being determined by economic, social, and political conditions of exploitation, coloniality, voluntary destruction of the environment, etc.

It is only on the basis of this vitalism that

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what technologies favor that which resists the intact? What technical alliance will allow Quasimodo to feel more joy than sadness? What art will be able to celebrate the way in which the universe can, thanks to the living, perceive itself and—why not—enjoy itself? A politics of existence is what should be able to answer these questions. It translates vital requirements in terms of propositions or prohibitions: should this airport be built or not? This dam? This useless and environmentally harmful high

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You have published a new book that deals with the idea of the atopia. Has this concept evolved since you began to use it? Do contemporary events and mutations seem to you to provide more relevance to your thinking about the

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Atopias: Manifesto for a Radical Existentialism is the amended translation of a work that was originally published in French⁵. What seems important to me about our discussion is to grasp the idea that the outside that I speak about in the book is not an outside over there that would oppose an inside over here, but—almost in reverse—th

outside that brings me here, in search of an eventual inside over there. Such a condition, atopian, literally without place, is a condition of aboriginal wandering that considers a house simply as an encampment, I mean to say, something that takes the place of inside. Perhaps it is because of the belief of some that they are “in” “their” country, “their” nation, and seeing foreigners arrive from “outside,” that human beings seeking refuge end up drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. To break with this belief, it would be necessary for us to recognize the atopia that is part of who we are, in other words that something within us is irreparably without place. Yes, the living that we know is terrestrial; but its atopia cuts it off from its roots, or plunges them into the sky, turning it into an extra-terrestrial. This does not mean that one shouldn't build a shelter, a house or a nest, it means that the living being has all the more need for a favorable living environment when we consider that the environment is a transitory situation. In the

words of Paul Bowles, “only the sky protects
from a vast, dark universe.” The anxiety and
wonder of existence devoted to the living tha
experiences it, a condition that I propose to
study in a book called *Échapper à l’horreur*.
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(Escaping Horror: Short Treaty of Marvelous

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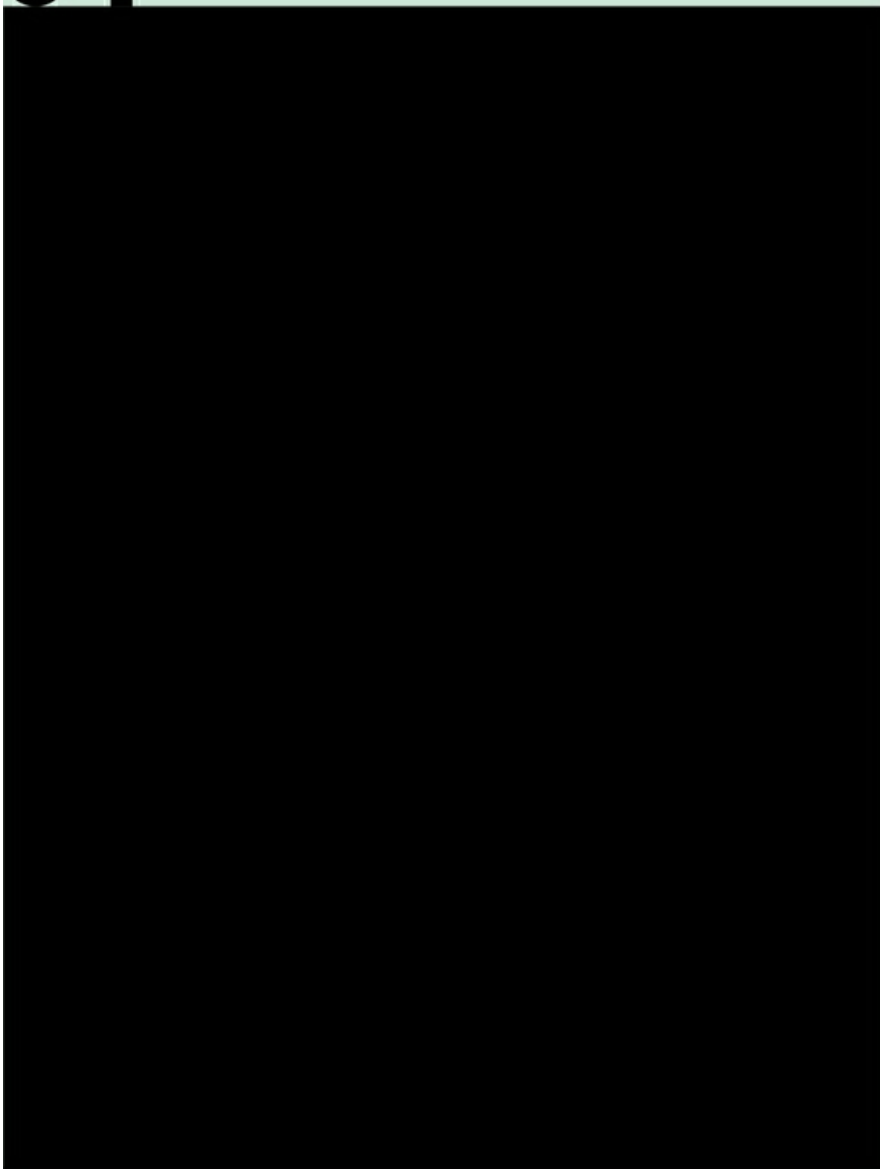
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Qu'est-ce qu'habiter ? Pour essayer de répondre à cette question, j'aimerais d'abord dire un mot du fameux texte de Heidegger intitulé *Bâtir, Habiter, Penser*. Un texte de 1951. Le mot *bauen*, « construire », « bâtir », « édifier », vient, nous dit Heidegger, d'un vieux mot allemand qui signifiait d'abord *habiter*. Il faut donc penser l'habiter avant le bâtir, il faut penser l'habiter pour pouvoir penser le bâtir. Ce mot de vieil allemand d'où vient *bauen* c'est *buan*, « habiter ». Cette racine, on la retrouve dans *ich bin, du bist*, « je suis », « tu es », comme dans l'anglais *to be*. Habiter, c'est le mode d'être de l'homme, c'est ainsi que nous sommes. « Être homme veut dire : être sur terre comme mortel,

c'est-à-dire : habiter. »¹

Être sur terre comme mortel, parce que l'habiter c'est ce qui arrive quand il y a veille sur ce qui naît, croît, se développe, disons quand on prend soin de « ce qui pousse », qui « ménagement », de veille et de soin prodigué soi, Heidegger retrouve un motif central de sa *poïein* par excellence – celui dont les penseurs ce n'est pas la fabrication d'un artefact, ni la venue à l'être de ce qui advient, *phusei*, naturel, pouvoir d'advenir : une production qui requiert du ménagement. « La *phusis*, écrit-il, est la *poïesis* », Heidegger invoque ici *la culture*, le ménagement culturelles, et on s'attend à ce qu'il en vienne : Au lieu de cela, se déploie une étrange dialectique, clôture. D'une part, dans cet habiter se joue l'habitat est « clairière », *lichtung*. Dans cette s'est retiré dans la langue. Et s'accomplir du n

La prise de conscience de notre condition
d'espèce parmi les espèces, tout
comme la considération d'autres êtres

—
vivants non-humains, mais également
le non animé – dans notre conception

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En ce sens, l'habiter est le trait fondamental de
« pauvre en monde », n'habite pas. Mais, comme
de l'ouverture – à l'être –, Heidegger conclut
une formule saisissante : habiter, écrit-il, c'est
parent »³. Il y a comme une ouverture dans la
l'horizontalité. Clôture par exclusion à la fois
humains non-parents. Clôture qui serait la c
qui habitent, dans l'entre-soi d'une parenté,
et la phobie du mélange. Clôture d'un habiter

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Mon hypothèse est la suivante : si être c'est ha
seulement de l'homme mais du vivant.⁴ Une l

suggérée et rejetée par Heidegger. Suggérée par l'exclusion des non-humains et des non-p, me réfère à ce que les sciences du vivant nomme Claude Bernard a introduit en physiologie le Il y a, dit-il, des catégories d'organismes dont les fluctuations du milieu ; ainsi, en hiver, les grande dormance, qui ne s'arrête qu'avec le retour du à la germination; de même, les marmottes hibernant attendant les beaux jours. Les animaux que Claude Bernard « les plus élevés en organisation » sont ceux qui ont cette dépendance aux fluctuations du milieu externe. Ils déroulent dans un second milieu, un milieu dit le « milieu intérieur », un milieu produit par l'organisme à ses composants. C'est un milieu autorégulé où les paramètres sont maintenus à peu près constants. Comme nous sommes, les cellules, tissus et organes fonctionnent en hiver comme été. C'est ce que l'on appelle aujourd'hui l'homéostasie chimique, stabilité « climatique », stockage de l'énergie à la variation des ressources dans le milieu externe. Une remarque : avec la révolution néolithique et l'expansion de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la sédentarisation, on a produit de l'homéostasie. Les nomades, doivent se déplacer en fonction de

qu'ils les aient épuisées, soit que la saison les hospitalières, comme le font les oiseaux migrateurs. Avec l'agriculture et l'élevage, en « domestiquant » l'animal, en la gardant à demeure et en la stockant, l'homme se sont relativement affranchis de ces fluctuations. Il a bâti un milieu de plus grande homéostasie, un foyer quelque part sur la Terre. Un habitat plus sûr où les végétaux et des animaux étaient accueillis.

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Je crois que l'invention de l'homéostasie, l'invention
c'est l'invention d'une forme de l'habitat, une
elle, le vivant, avant même de transformer son
moins habitable, en se faisant milieu intérieur

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Revenons à la question de la clôture. Si l'on d

qu'il est un habitat, c'est qu'un organisme, ou
continûment échanger avec lui de la matière
métabolisme est la condition de sa survie ; ce
ce qui fait que le vivant subsiste dans sa cond
se renouvelant ; que l'échange s'arrête et il m
habiter, cela ne saurait vouloir dire « être enc
à la production d'homéostasie, à ce que je tie
non seulement ce processus doit s'accomplir
avec le milieu extérieur, tout en préservant la
en laissant le système ouvert sous peine de m
du milieu extérieur elles-mêmes qui servent
réguler le milieu intérieur et assurer sa stabil
négative ». Là encore, le vivant se défend de s
de connivence avec lui, de façon à réduire sa
d'habitat qui ne soit un territoire ouvert. La c
imprenable, c'est la tombe. Tout habitat est u

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À partir de là, je crois que l'on peut analyser tout ce que le vivant opère sur son milieu « extérieur » pour produire, dehors, de l'homéostasie, comme chez les plantes. J'en ai indiqué un exemple en évoquant la révélation que le vivant se constitue en habitat, mais il produirait. Cette externalisation, je l'appelle « écopoïèse », c'est-à-dire le monde des vivants. Elle consiste à projeter l'habitat vers ceux qui président à la régulation du milieu. Les plus familiers restent les nids, les termitières, les fourmilières, ce que les Amérindiens

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Les premiers stades du développement –l’œuf, le juvénile... – sont placés sous le signe de l’hypécopoïétique des géniteurs vient pallier cette en leur fabriquant un habitat plus sûr. Construire des soins parentaux, c’est accroître la probabilité d’accroître la sécurité face aux prédateurs, assurant le constant que possible, parfois dispenser la charge des fourmilières, les termitières, les ruches, où le travail du soin parental s’est socialisé : la reine mais une armée d’ouvrières stériles bâtit et exerce la garde et l’approvisionnement, et parfois y i

Habiter, de l’hospitalité du vivant

et l'élevage de pucerons – quelque chose d'an

pour avoir à demeure les sources d'approvisi
Un chercheur américain, J. Scott Turner⁵, a m
une fonction physiologique, ce sont comme c
d'homéostasie pour le « super-organisme » q
termitières d'Afrique du Sud qu'il a étudiées,
mètres de haut dressées au milieu des désert
canalisations ouvertes sur l'extérieur qui per
la termitière, régulant l'apport en oxygène ne
colonie et l'évacuation du gaz carbonique qu
de croissance de la colonie, quand les besoin
que l'augmentation de la production de gaz c
suffocation, un mécanisme d'autorégulation
de l'équilibre de l'atmosphère intérieure pro
chimiques qui pousse des groupes de termite
prolonger ses tuyauteries pour augmenter l'a
l'évacuation de CO₂. On trouve un phénomè
quand l'air frais se raréfie, des groupes d'abei
ruche pour la ventiler de leurs ailes.

Il y a deux façons de donner un habitat aux pe
dehors, des « nurseries », comme le font souv

dans le corps maternel, les premiers stades de la vie, c'est l'homéostasie du corps maternel qui fournit l'environnement aux embryons et aux fœtus. Chez les placentaires, le «milieu intérieur» du corps maternel—, sur lequel ils dépendent par le placenta, que sont assurés les échanges nutritifs pour la survie. Et chez les mammifères, le corps de la mère assure le régisement des ressources nutritives du nouveau-né. Chez les espèces dont les petits naissent immatures, la vie pendant la gestation intra-utérine doit être relayée, longtemps après la naissance, nous aussi, ce soin est socialisé. Au fond, chez les mammifères, d'habitat homéostatique doit perdurer, socialisé, la vie. C'est ainsi que nous habitons.

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Les exemples que j'ai pris jusqu'ici concerne
soit donné d'habiter augmente la probabilité
d'habitat pour d'autres vivants ne se limite pa
écopoiétique du vivant n'est destinée qu'à la
étendu à l'échelle des non-humains, le motif
c'est « rester enclos avec ce qui est parent ». C
thèse des sociobiologistes, selon lesquels l'al
ne relève finalement que de l'égoïsme des gèn
la parenté, dehors, un monde hostile. Je croi

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Il est vrai que le milieu vivant dans lequel vit l'homme est hostile. La prédation et le parasitisme sont les deux faces de cette hostilité ; la prédation quand le gros tue le petit, quand le petit infeste le gros. Le parasitisme est exercé par les micro-organismes qui viennent infester un organisme plus général, dangereux, toxiques, pathogènes voire mortels. Ça tourne mal. D'abord parce que le parasite affaiblit son hôte, tuant la poule aux œufs d'or ; et puis parce que l'hôte se défend avec ses armes pour éliminer l'intrus. L'hôte se fait « rattraper » et les armements se poursuivent, à mort.

Mais il arrive que ça tourne autrement, assez souvent. Le parasitisme tourne en symbiose mutualiste. Une trêve était conclue, comme si les hostilités étaient suspendues. Mais le parasite, l'hostilité se convertit en hospitalité. Dans notre système digestif des masses de bactéries, des milliards d'organes supplémentaires, devenu indispensables. On l'appelle le microbiote. Ces bactéries sont des cellules constituant notre corps. Elles décomposent les aliments, elles digèrent, elles synthétisent des vitamines, et elles détruisent cette flore qui travaille pour nous, rendant la vie impossible. Deuxième exemple: on dit souvent que les termites dévorent le bois parce qu'elles dévastent des arbres ou des maisons.

sont incapables de métaboliser les particules

—
qu'elles hébergent dans leurs intestins – qui dégradent en sucres, puis d'autres bactéries en acides gras. Les coraux sont-ils des minéraux ? En fait, ce sont des animaux, des « cnidaires » : des colonies d'organismes unicellulaires photosynthétiques appelées « zooxanthelles », qui leur fournissent le glucose, un peu comme un jardin potager aménagé à l'intérieur même de leur organisme. On pourrait multiplier les exemples. Nous savons, d'abord, que la symbiose a été défendue par la biologiste américaine Lynn Margulis, qui a très souvent utilisé ce procédé de « symbiologie » pour décrire les formes de vie : des organismes se font habitat les uns des autres, ce qui ressemble à l'hospitalité.

What does dwelling mean? To try to answer that question, I'd like to first say a word about Heidegger's famous 1951 text *Building, Dwelling, Thinking*. The word *bauen*, "to build," comes from an ancient German word that means "to dwell." We must thereby think dwelling before building, and think of dwelling to be able to think of building. This ancient German word from which *bauen* derives is *buan*, "to dwell." This root can be also found in *ich bin, du bist* ("I am," "You are"), as well as the English infinitive "to be." Dwelling is the way of being of humans; that is how we are: "*to be a human being means to be on the earth as a mortal, it means to dwell.*"¹

"*To be on the earth as a mortal*" because dwelling is what happens when care is extended to what is born, grows, and develops, when we take care of what "grows," of what is mortal. With this notion of "sparing," tending, and preserving provided to everything coming from oneself to being one's own,

Heidegger returns to the central motif of his philosophy: the eminent making, the ultimate *poiein*—the one thinkers and poets are the custodians of. It isn't a fabrication of an artifact, nor the production of concepts, but rather the “bringing-forth,” or *physis*, of something that occurs in nature and has the capacity to arise from out of itself. It is a production that nevertheless requires “sparing” to be realized. Heidegger states that “*Physis is indeed poiesis in the highest sense.*”² Heidegger brings up *culture* here, that is, the “sparing” that is performed in cultural practices. We then expect him to move on to the care that the

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Instead, a strange dialectic of the opening and the “enclosing” unfolds. On the one hand, in this dwelling the truth of being is being decided. The opening: the dwelling is a “clearing,” *lichtung*. In this “clearing,” what was concealed in the language can show itself and be unconcealed. And the essence of man can thus be achieved. In that sense, dwelling is the fundamental feature of the human condition. Animals are “poor in the world” and do not dwell. But, as a counterpoint to the pattern of the opening—to being—Heidegger concludes this investigation of language with a dramatic catchphrase: dwelling, he writes, “to be enclosed within the free.”³ There is a s

of opening in verticality and an enclosing in
horizontality. An enclosing due to the exclus
of both living non-humans and non-parental

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The awareness of our situation as one species among many non-humans, but also the inanimate—in our idea of the world. By moving beyond the dialectic of opening and closing that philosopher Roland Schaer reintroduces the importance of from the biological concept of “homeostasis,” he emphasizes environment,” self-produced and self-regulated by the organism in itself must nonetheless engage in exchange, become a mirror of the living thus teaches us new forms of hospitality, driven

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Dwelling, Hospitality of the Living

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humans. An enclosing that would be the condition for the Open, for those than dwell in it, in kin togetherness, that is, with a share origin and the phobia of mixing. The enclosing of dwelling with no hospitality.

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My hypothesis is as follows: if being is dwelling, then that should be said not only for humans but also for all living beings.⁴ This hypothesis seems to me to have been both suggested and rejected by Heidegger. Suggested in the reference to *physis* and rejected with t

exclusion of non-humans and non-parents.⁷
understand this, I refer to what life sciences

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Claude Bernard introduced the concept of
an “interior milieu.” He points out that there
categories of beings whose life patterns chan

with the fluctuations of the environment; thereby, during the winter, seeds enter a period of dormancy that does not stop until climatic conditions that are favorable to germination return; similarly, marmots hibernate, go into inactivity until warm weather returns. The “most highly organized animals” according to Claude Bernard are those that manage to free themselves from this dependence on the fluctuations of the external environment because their life takes place in a second milieu, a milieu within the milieu. That is what he calls the “interior milieu,” a milieu produced by the body to provide dwelling to its components. It is a self-regulated and relatively stable environment, whose parameters are kept more or less constant. Among homeothermic animals such as us, cells, tissues, and organs maintain a constant temperature, in both summer and winter. This is what we now call “homeostasis:” chemical stability, “climatic stability, storing reserves that reduce the dependence on the variation of resources in

the external environment, and so on. On this point, with the Neolithic Revolution, along with the invention and the expansion of agriculture, animal husbandry, and sedentarization, humans have in a sense produced a homeostasis on the “outside.” Nomadic hunter-gatherers need to move according to the availability of resources, either when they deplete or when seasons force them to look for more hospitable regions, just as migratory birds do; they have to change environments. With agriculture and animal husbandry, by “domesticating” plant and animal resources, by keeping them at home and storing them, humans in the Neolithic period freed themselves from the fluctuation to some extent; they changed their milieu, they built a milieu of greater homeostasis, a more livable outside that had become their home somewhere on Earth. What is more, this was a multi-specific dwelling given that plants and animals were welcomed “into their home,” as

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the invention of the interior milieu, is the invention of a form of dwelling, an invention of evolution. *With it, the living, before even transforming its milieu to make it more or less inhabitable, makes itself an interior milieu, its components and thus makes itself dwell.* Let us come back to the question of the enclosure. If we are to say that the exterior milieu that is a dwelling, then an organism or population of organisms must then constant

exchange matter, energy, and information with it. Metabolism is key to its survival; this circulation, this exchange, is why the living survives in its condition of a living thing, that it continues being by self-renewing; if the exchange stops, the living thing dies. Though, for the living, being is dwelling, this cannot mean “being enclosed.” Furthermore, to return to the production of homeostasis, that

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dwelling, not only must this process take place while constantly exchanging with the external environment—while preserving the porosity of the membrane, while keeping the system open under pain of death—but the fluctuations of the external environment themselves serve as a pool of information and are used to regulate the interior milieu and maintain its stability by means of negative feedback loops. Here again the living defends its exterior by establishing a sort of connivance with it, thereby limiting its own vulnerability. There is no dwelling that is not an open territory; an enclosure means death. An impregnable fortress is a tomb. And dwelling is an exchanger.

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On this basis, I believe that we can analyze a whole series of transformations that living beings bring about in their “exterior” environment, including ways of producing homeostasis outside, like externalizations of homeostasis.

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Neolithic Revolution. Not only do living beings form a dwelling, but they produce dwellings for other living beings. This externalization is w

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in the living world. It consists of projecting, on
the outside, devices akin to those that govern
the regulation of the interior milieu. The most
familiar examples are nests, niches, burrows
ant colonies, termite mounds—the so-called

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The early stages of development—the

egg, the embryo, the fetus, the juvenile—are characterized by their extreme vulnerability. The ecopoietic activity of its progenitors makes up for this adaptive distortion of the young offspring by building a safer dwelling for them. Building a nest and providing parental care increases the likelihood of survival of the offspring—it boosts safety against predators, ensures as constant a supply as possible, in some cases provides heat during incubation, and so on. With the ant colonies, termite mounds, and hives appear dwellings where parental care is socialized: the fertile queen takes over reproduction while an army of sterile worker ants builds and maintains the nursery, protects it and supplies it, in some species also growing fungi or herding aphids—something akin to agriculture and animal husbandry—to keep the supply source for feeding the larvae.

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The American researcher, J. Scott Turner,⁵ demonstrated that these constructions have physiological function: they are like artificial organs that produce homeostasis for the “superorganism” of the colony.

The immense termite mounds of South Africa that he studied—two

meter tall columns of earth in the middle of the desert—are equipped with piping systems that are open on the outside and vent the mound, regulating the inflow of oxygen that is required for the respiration of the colony and the outflow of the carbon dioxide that it generates. During the growth phases of the colony, when the oxygen requirements increase and the increase in the production of carbon dioxide threatens to suffocate the colony, a self-regulatory mechanism is triggered: the alteration of the balance of the inner atmosphere causes a

cascade of chemical signals that drives groups of termites to elevate the construction and to extend its vents to increase the inflow of outside air and the outflow of carbon dioxide. A similar phenomenon takes place in beehives, where when the fresh air becomes scarcer, groups of bees station themselves at the entrances of the hive in order to vent it with their wings. There are two ways of providing “dwelling” to the vulnerable young: by building nurseries on the outside, as most oviparous animals do, or by hosting them in the maternal body during the first stages of development. With viviparity it is the homeostasis of the maternal body that provides a protective dwelling to the embryo and fetus. Among placental mammals, it is through the maternal blood—the “interior milieu” of the maternal body—to which the embryo is connected via the placenta, that the metabolic exchanges that are necessary for its survival take place. Among mammals,

Dwelling, Hospitality of the Living

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the body of the mother remains, even after birth, the nutritional supply for the neonates via breastfeeding. Among species whose offspring are born immature, as is the case of humans, intrauterine gestation must be followed by a long period of parental care. And for us too, this care is socialized. Essentially, in the human species, the production of the homeostatic “dwelling” must remain in place socially provided, during our entire lifetime. That is how we dwell.

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O S P I T A L I T Y

The examples I have used so far had to do with the offspring of animals as having any dwelling increases their likelihood of survival. But the production of a dwelling for other living beings is not limited to these cases. Thinking of the ecopoietic activity of the living as being intended only for its progeny would be return, though in a version extended to non-humans, to the Heideggerian motif according to which dwelling is “being enclosed within the free.” I would also give credence to the contention of sociobiologists that the altruism that occurs

care ultimately lays solely in gene selfishness. Within, a pacified dwelling for the kin, and, outside, a hostile world. I don't believe that this is the case.

It is true that the lively environment in which living beings live is often a hostile one. Predation and parasitism are two chief figures of this hostility; predation is when the large creature kills and eats up the small one, parasitism when the small creature infests the large one. Parasitism has to do with dwelling. Indeed, the micro-organisms that infest a "host" are generally dangerous, toxic, pathogenic, or even deadly to their hosts. Things often run rough. First of all because parasites weaken their host by exploiting them, killing the goose that lays the golden egg; and then also because the host fights back and seeks to eliminate the intruder. The host becomes a "hostile milieu" and an arms race is triggered, to death. Sometimes this turns out differently however, quite often even. At times, parasitism transforms into mutualistic symbiosis. It is

as though a truce has been concluded and hostilities are suspended; the hostility between the host and the parasite becomes hospitality; they live together. We host masses of bacteria in our digestive system and they form an additional organ of sorts within us, which has become essential for our digestive metabolism: the microbiota. There are ten times more of these bacteria than the number of cells in our body. They break down the food, help digest nutrients, synthesize vitamins, etc. The overuse of antibiotics makes our bodies more fragile precisely because it destroys the gut flora. Another example: it is often said that termites feed on wood because they ravage trees or timber. In reality, they are incapable of metabolizing lignin. It is bacteria that they host in their digestive tract that digest the cellulose and break it down into sugar, and then other bacteria still that ferment these sugars into fatty acids. Are corals minerals, plants, or animals? They are in fact animals, Cnidaria, that host colonies of photosynthetic unicellular

organisms called zooxanthellae within their tissues. These creatures supply most of their hosts' energy needs, acting just like a kitchen garden landscaped within their very bodies. There are many more such examples. We now know, following an idea first propounded by the American biologist Lynn Margulis, that biological evolution often used this process of "symbiogenesis" to create new life forms: some organisms become a dwelling for others; which is not unlike hospitality.

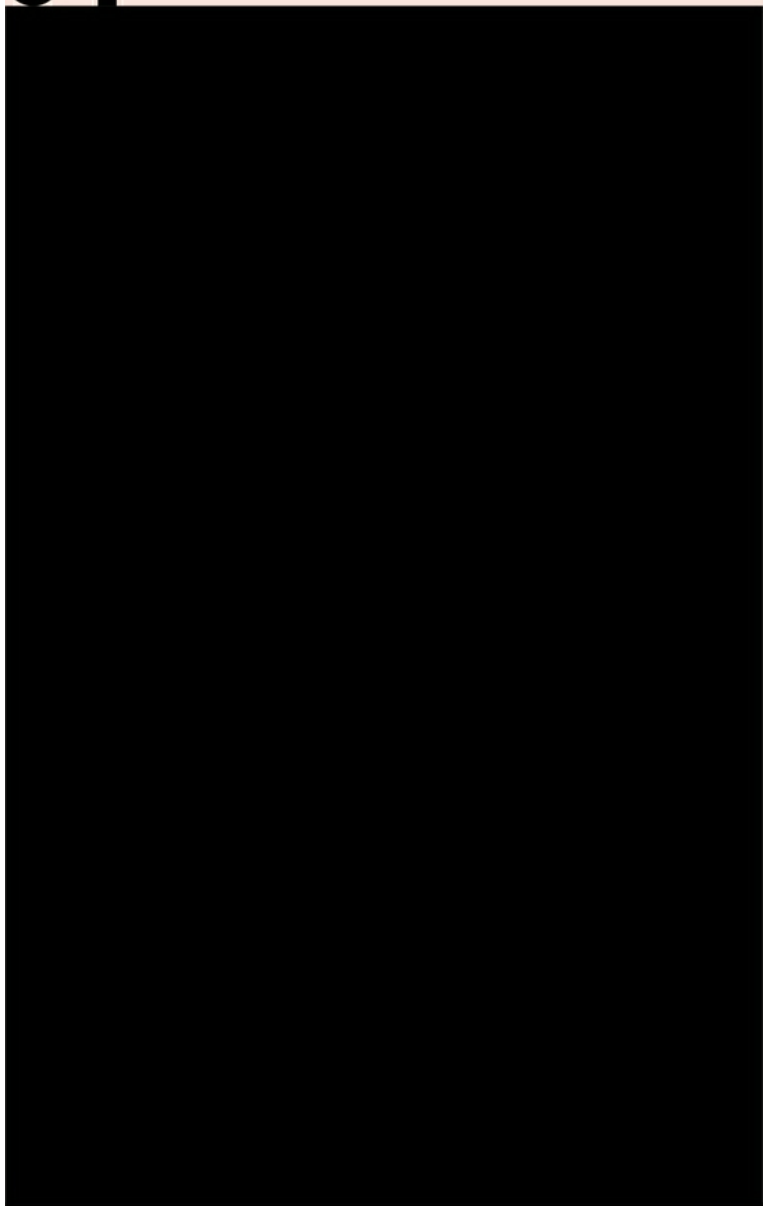
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En tant que biologiste, pourriez

*vous nous énumérer les propriétés
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comme absolument essentielles pour définir le vivant. L'une d'elles est souvent mise en avant : l'évolution, cette capacité d'adaptation permettant à un organisme d'optimiser son fonctionnement par rapport à son contexte. La deuxième n'est pas souvent citée, ce qui me surprend

puisque'elle distingue le vivant de processus purement physico-chimiques. Les règles de la physique et de la chimie s'appliquent au vivant – seuls quelques vitalistes en doutent encore – mais le vivant possède des règles supplémentaires, qui lui sont propres, dont la capacité à mobiliser des concentrations locales. Alors que la concentration moyenne de réactifs dans une cellule peut être faible, la capacité à les concentrer en un endroit optimise leurs réactions. Nos cellules ont toutes un squelette interne extrêmement dynamique par exemple, capable de se former et se déformer sans cesse, permettant « rendez-vous » en un point précis. Si deux cellules, fusionner en présence d'une enzyme vont apprendre à « pédaler » le long du cytosquelette afin de générer des effets de concentration locale, signature du vivant. D'autres caractéristiques, en particulier la reproduction. Mais dans *L'Arbre de la Vie* publié en 1969, Maturana et Varela n'identifient pas comme définissant un être vivant, bien qu'el

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Tirer les enseignements d'une prise en compte du vivant suppose une meilleure connaissance de ce dernier. Biologiste cellulaire, François Képès souligne que le vivant se caractérise certes par l'évolution – qui permet l'adaptation –, le fonctionnement métabolique – faculté

à transformer des ressources entrantes en produits différenciés –, mais aussi par la capacité à mobiliser des concentrations locales pour optimiser les réactions. Il distingue la biologie des systèmes, qui analyse et explique, de la biologie de synthèse, qui utilise cette compréhension pour agir sur le vivant. Ajouter des molécules neuves aux produits classiques du vivant pour pallier la non-renouvelabilité des ressources environnementales lui semble représenter une avancée majeure, malgré les incompréhensions. Il ne s'agit pas d'une volonté de maîtrise du vivant, mais de domestication et de négociation, reposant sur la coopération et le soin plutôt que la domination. Il appelle ainsi à dépasser les discours manichéens dans le débat sur la manipulation du vivant en se posant prioritairement la question de l'usage.

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Pouvez-vous nous expliquer ce qu'est la bio large, ce qui la distingue de la biologie des sy s'opère le « dépassement du vivant » ?

La considération des principes inhérents à la Or il est nécessaire de poser les bonnes questions. Il est ainsi fondamental de comprendre le vivant, notamment le fonctionnement de l'h de l'interrupteur permettant de destiner à de alors même qu'elles proviennent d'une même vivant », comme l'appelait François Jacob, es moléculaire des fonctionnements cellulaires l'observation, l'analyse et l'explication des pl

la biologie de synthèse consiste à utiliser cette
le vivant et y opérer un travail d'ingénieur. La
vivant, la seconde l'exploite.

Cela fait plus de 10 000 ans que l'homme agit
systématisant son action au moyen de l'agric
interventions ont connu des raffinements su
a commencé à opérer des croisements, puis à
aléatoires dès 1920, en particulier sur les pla
méthode n'était cependant pas rationnelle à
impossible de prévoir la nature de la mutatio
la couleur ou la forme des fruits et légumes. Il
modifier l'expression d'un gène mais aussi d'
un organisme ne le présentant pas à l'état nat
transgénèse a ouvert la voie aux organismes g
ainsi quasiment un siècle que les plantes serv
sont manipulées génétiquement. Les interve
de plus en plus précises au cours de la dernièr
Ce type de manipulation peut s'avérer extrêm
agroalimentaire, mais aussi pour ceux de la s
variété de riz, le riz doré, a par exemple été de
synthèse de la provitamine A afin de compen
populations se nourrissant exclusivement de
classiquement produits par le vivant – protéi

textiles... – de nouvelles molécules pouvant
ressources représente une avancée majeure
à partir de pétrole, peut dorénavant être conc
des produits manufacturés par des micro-org
rares et chers, pour la plupart extraits en Chi
haute température dans des solvants toxique

bactéries ou des levures inoffensives, entière-
37°C en présence d'eau, de sel et de sucre. C'
l'esprit de ce qu'est et deviendra notre bio-éc
*Vous assimilez le vivant à une horloge dont
des pièces à notre guise, de façon à induire u
n'existant pas dans la nature. La méthode d*

comparable aux processus industriels de st

visé-t-elle à « asservir » et « dicter » au vivant
service de l'homme ou s'agit-il d'une coopér
La biologie de synthèse est un processus de d
Pour qu'une vache produise du lait, il est indi
faire vêler. L'exploitation laitière ne peut s'al
imposées par le fonctionnement de l'organis
lorsqu'il s'agit de micro-organismes. Partant
peut être assimilée à la technique du dressag
à élaborer certains produits comme nous app
pirouette. Lorsque l'on crée un chromosome
chromosome naturel, nous recréons les conc
nous « prenons soin de lui » à la manière d'un

obtenir un meilleur lait. Il s'agit donc bien plus d'une domination à mes yeux.

Vous parlez de domestication, d'autres de création. Vous effrayé par l'idée que de « monstres » conçus en laboratoire, s'il ne s'agit que d'un Frankenstein bactérien, est-il capable de dépasser la simple manipulation ?

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Il existe des tenants de la biologie de synthèse. L'un d'eux, l'américain Craig Venter, célèbre pour avoir créé le premier organisme synthétique, a découvert le génome minimum nécessaire à la vie et l'a utilisée comme un châssis sur lequel des gènes

réaliser les fonctions biologiques souhaitées
synthétisé un chromosome bactérien dans s
L'ADN de ce chromosome peut être recréé ar
que d'un « copier-coller » de ce que l'on retro
capables de copier, mais pas encore d'invent
le chercheur démiurge parle de « création », i
« construction », bien que celle-ci ne cesse d'
1973. L'utilisation de termes tels que «créati

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Les polémiques autour de la manipulation du
systématiquement la manière dont un organ
souvent son objectif et les dangers ou bénéfice
plantes résistantes au changement climatique
concrètement aucune incidence sur la santé

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des plantes résistantes aux herbicides permet de produire des produits toxiques de manière à détruire tout contaminant par là même les sols et les produits. On se pose la question de l'usage pour sortir des produits des OGM. La réponse dépend certes des propriétés, mais également du contexte dans lequel il est envisagé. Au regret, les laboratoires pharmaceutiques n'ont pas encore de vaccins produits par des organismes modifiés génétiquement des OGM. Mais si tel était le cas, les gens s'apercevraient que, dans ce cas, l'insuline administrée aux diabétiques doit provenir d'un OGM. Nous tirons des bénéfices de la biotechnologie depuis de nombreuses années. Il serait bon d'instituer une réglementation cas par cas, de leurs bénéfices et maléfices.

Quelles applications concrètes les méthodes de synthèse pourraient-elles avoir dans les domaines du design ou de l'écologie urbaine ?

Je ne suis pas un expert de ces questions, mais je suis responsable scientifique d'une start-up appelée *Urban Bio* qui vise à produire des organismes vivants fluorescents pour illuminer tout autre élément urbain sans consommer d'énergie. Il reste à surmonter, comme la réduction des déchets (création du milieu de vie) et l'optimisation de

intensité lumineuse, reproduction). La lumière peut substituer à l'éclairage public, mais elle peut aussi mener à l'obscurité. C'est avec cet objectif que des chercheurs ont créé des micro-méduses et calamars. Dans le même temps, les États-Unis envisagent de créer des arbres lumineux. Contrairement à Glowee, où les micro-organismes sont enfermés dans des capsules, les arbres lumineux sont des systèmes « sauvages », comme les oiseaux et les insectes. L'impact est donc à considérer avec sérieux. C'est pourquoi il est important de définir des limites que des applications à l'échelle urbaine.

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As a biologist, could you list the properties that characterize the living?

Two characteristics seem to me to be absolutely essential in defining the living. One of them is often emphasized: evolution, the ability to adapt that allows an organism to optimize its functioning with regard to its context. The second is not often mentioned, which is surprising as it distinguishes the living from purely psycho-chemical processes. The rules of physics and chemistry apply to the living—only a few vitalists continue to doubt this—but the living obeys additional rules that are specific to it, including the capacity to mobilize local concentrations. Though the average concentration of reagents in a cell may be low, the ability to concentrate them in an area optimizes their reactions. All of

our cells have an extremely dynamic internal skeleton for example, capable of constantly forming and deforming, allowing proteins to “hook up” in a specific area. If two reagents are required to fuse in the presence of an enzyme that catalyzes the reaction for the cell to survive, these reagents will learn to “pedal” along the cytoskeleton, and to meet so as to generate the effects of a local concentration. This is for me the true signature of the living. Other characteristics are regularly cited, reproduction in particular, but in *The tree of knowledge*, first published in 1969, Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela for example do not identify this function as one that defines a living being, even though it is necessary for the perpetuation of life. The metabolism is often mentioned as being ontological to the living, through its ability to transform incoming resources into different products.

Could you explain to us what synthetic biology is in the broadest sense, what distinguishes it from the biology of

systems and how the “transcendence of the living” takes place?

Consideration of the principles inherent to biology is relatively recent. Nevertheless, it is necessary to ask the correct questions in order to obtain clear answers. It is fundamental then to understand the mechanisms that define the living, notably the functioning of the clock that

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Learning lessons from acknowledging the living presuppositions of the living. Képès emphasizes that the living is certainly characterized

ning—the ability to transform incoming resources into different local concentrations so as to optimize reactions. He distinguishes synthetic biology which uses this understanding to act upon

ducts of the living so as to compensate for the non-renewable misunderstandings, to represent major progress. It is not a domestication and negotiation, based on cooperation and to move beyond Manichean discourses in the debate around use our main priority.

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regulates our 24-hour day, or that of the switch that allows two different destinations for two daughter cells though they both come from the same mother cell. This “logic of the living,” as François Jacob called it, is at the heart of our molecular understanding of cellular function. The biology of systems concerns the observation, analysis, and explanation of biological phenomena, while synthetic biology consists of using this understanding to act on the living organism and perform the work of engineers. The former explores the logic of

the living while the latter exploits it.

Man has been acting on his environment for over 10,000 years, systematizing his actions through agriculture and the raising of livestock and these interventions have known successive refinements over time. Man began to introduce crossovers, then to provoke the emergence of random mutations from the 1920s onwards, particularly on plants with horticultural interest. This method was however not rational as such as it was impossible to predict the nature of the genetic mutation and its effects on the taste, color, or shape of fruit and vegetables. Since 1973 it has become possible to modify the expression of a gene but also to implant a “foreign” gene into an organism that does not present it naturally. This manipulation, called transgenesis, has opened the way to genetically modified organisms (GMOs). So, the plants that are the basis of our nutrition have been genetically manipulated for almost a century. The interventions have only become more and more precise over the course of the

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This type of manipulation can prove to be extremely useful for the food processing industry, but also for the health and environmental sectors. A variety of rice

golden rice—has been developed by adding a synthetic gene of pro-vitamin A to compensate for nutritional deficiencies in populations whose diets are based almost exclusively on rice. Adding to the list of products classically produced by the living—proteins used in cosmetics, textile fibers—new molecules

that compensate for the non-renewability of resources represent major progress. Plastic, originally made from petrol, can now be produced in a bio-sourced way using products manufactured by micro-organisms. Toxic, rare, and expensive metals, for the most part extracted in China and used in high

temperature tanks in toxic solvents, can be replaced by bacteria or harmless yeasts, completely biodegradable and cultivated at a temperature of 37°C in the presence of water, salt, and sugar. It is in these opportunities that the spirit of what our bio-economy is, and what it will become, lies.

You compare the living to a clock whose parts we can replace at will, in such a way as to introduce a precise function that does not exist in nature. Does the method of synthetic biology

comparable to industrial processes of standardization—aim to “enslave”

the living and “dictate” to it a function that places it in the service of man or is it more a matter of cooperation?

Synthetic biology is a process of domestication and of negotiation. For a cow to produce milk, it is necessary to feed it and have it calve. Dairy farming cannot escape certain constraints that are imposed by the function of the bovine organism. The same rules prevail when it comes to micro-organisms. Starting with this organization, synthetic biology can be likened to the technique of dressage. We teach bacteria to develop certain products in the same way that we teach a dog to do a pirouette. When we create a synthetic chromosome or when we modify a natural chromosome, we recreate the optimal conditions for its preservation, we “take care of it” in the same way as a breeder who pampers his animals to obtain better quality milk. It is thus much more a question of cooperation than domination in my

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You speak of domestication, others of creation. The public is terrified by the idea of “monsters” built through assembly, even if it is only a bacterial Frankenstein. In concrete terms, is man capable of going beyond mere manipulation to be able to create life

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There are advocates of “hard” synthetic biology, like the American researcher Craig Venter, famous for having built the minimal

cell. He discovered the minimum genome necessary for a cell to function which is used as a framework onto which genes can be “grafted” to produce the desired biological functions. He is also the first to have fully synthesized a bacterial chromosome using chemistry. The DNA of the chromosome can be artificially recreated, but it is not a matter of “copying and pasting” what we find in nature. We are indeed able to copy, but we are not yet in a position to invent or *design* the living. Where the demigod researcher speaks of “creation”, it is in fact a question of “construction,” even though the methods used have not stopped improving since 1973. The use of terms like “creation” is obviously part of a communication strategy. Controversies around the manipulation of the living systematically concern the way that an organism has been built, often avoiding its goal and the dangers or benefits that this entails. Making plants resistant to climate change or to certain fungi has no real impact on human health. Inversely, making plants

resistant to herbicides allows farmers to use toxic products in such a way as to destroy any plants that are not resistant, contaminating the ground and the harvested products at the same time. It is necessary to raise the question of use to be able to move away from Manichean speeches with regard to GMOs. The response provided obviously depends on the properties of the modified organism, but also the context in which we intend to use it. To my great regret, pharmaceutical laboratories do not label medicines or vaccines produced by modified organisms, because of the deplorable image of GMOs. But if this was the case, people would see that, among many other cases, the insulin that has been administered to diabetics since 1982 has been produced mainly by a GMO. We have benefitted from synthetic biology for many years. It would be a good thing to institute rational evaluations, on a case-by-case basis of its advantages and disadvantages.

What concrete applications could the methods deployed by synthetic biology

*have in the fields of architecture,
design, or urban ecology?*

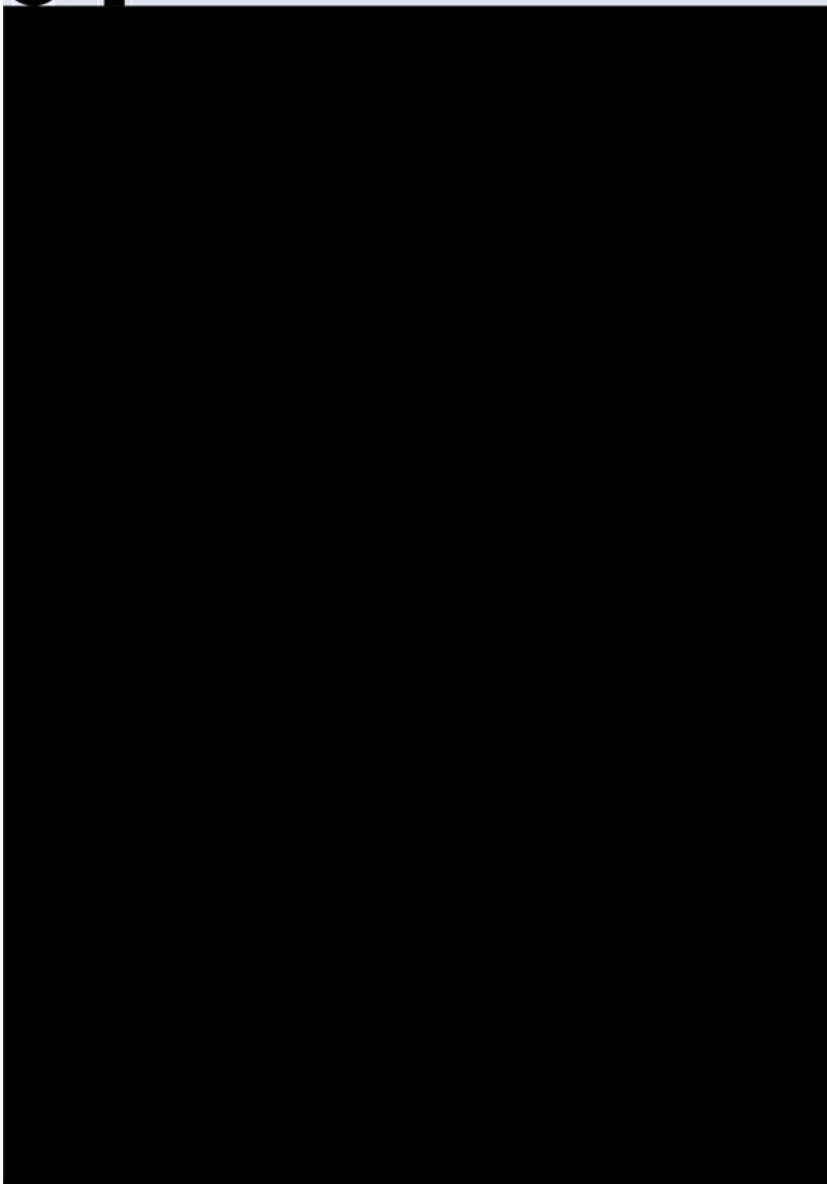
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to these questions, but one of my former
students is the scientific manager of a start

up called Glowee. This firm seeks to produce
living fluorescent organisms with the goal of
illuminating display windows or other urban
elements without using any electricity. Many

obstacles remain, such as the reduction of production costs (food, creation of an environment for life) and the optimization of performances (lifespan, intensity of light, reproduction). The light generated will never replace public lighting, but it could be strong enough to substantially reduce darkness. It is with this goal in mind that researchers have intervened on the genome of jellyfish and squid. In the same vein, a firm based in the United States is planning to create luminescent trees to illuminate cities. Unlike Glowee, where genetically modified micro-organisms are enclosed in capsules, trees are in contact with a lot of “wild” systems, like birds and insects who nest in them, so their impact is to be taken very seriously. It is with this type of reasoning and these types of limits that the applications of synthetic biology on an urban scale can be considered.

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Quelle différence faites-vous entre nature et biodiversité ?

La différence est très simple : la nature rassemble l'ensemble des systèmes existants

constitué en même temps que la Terre –, alors que la biodiversité est la fraction vivante de la nature, née sur un substrat minéral, sur une géodiversité antérieure. La biodiversité ne se réduit toutefois pas à un seul inventaire d'espèces : au-delà du nombre de papillons dans un champ ou de bactéries sur une surface, elle recouvre l'ensemble des relations entre les êtres vivants et aussi avec leur environnement. Cette biodiversité est universelle, elle va des forêts aux fonds marins ou aux plaines alluviales, mais se retrouve également dans les vins, les fromages et au cœur de chacun de nous. On ne peut vivre sans la biodiversité qui nous compose, nous nourrit, nous habille et nous habite, puisque le corps humain se compose d'autant de bactéries que de cellules humaines.

Cette conception de la biodiversité nous per

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Le problème est de savoir comment mesurer si on ne connaît pas toutes les espèces qui pe
bactéries apparaissent en permanence, et de
sans que nous ayons remarqué leur existence
et le vivant adore cela. Si les perturbations so
ne doivent cependant pas être trop fréquentes
s'installer. La nature n'est pas en équilibre m

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y compris financière – des services écosystémiques qu'elle offre à l'être humain. Il invite ainsi à rompre avec notre arrogance et à chercher en la nature une alliée, qu'elle a toujours été, de façon à développer par cette nouvelle alliance des facteurs de résilience, par exemple en participant à rétablir et enrichir la

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de systèmes interdépendants. Le second pro
« méritent » d’être protégées, si toutes ont la m
de cette harmonie ou si certaines ont une fon
voûte ». Le public est prêt à des dons importa
girafe ou d’autres animaux remarquables, ta
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*Comment reconnaître la valeur des services
qui relèvent du bien commun mais sont con*
Élaborée à la fin XIX^e siècle, La notion de « se
véritablement surgi grâce au *Millennium Eco*
qui regroupait près de 1 300 scientifiques cho
écosystèmes de la planète à l'occasion de l'en
Cette notion pose la question des différences
sommés capables de dire que la corne du rhin
encore que l'on serait prêt à donner telle som
points rouges. Mais la valeur des services que
d'un tout autre calcul. Je pense à la purificati
à la production d'oxygène par le phytoplanct
Nous connaissons un peu plus de 2 millions d
dans les musées –, et au moins 250 000 d'entr
nombreux insectes, des oiseaux, des chauve
sont le plus affectés par l'action de l'homme,
femmes – sont obligés de polliniser à la main.
coût annuel que cela représenterait pour le n
de dollars en termes de salaires. La dégradati
coûte objectivement très cher, y compris fin
Quel rapport notre humanité, aujourd'hui n
peut-elle entretenir avec cette biodiversité ?
La sédentarisation a engendré une croissanc

et l'élevage n'ont dès lors cessé d'accompagner les installations. Il y avait des humains sans agriculture, d'humanité sans elle. Or, le développement a profondément modifié les écosystèmes. Lorsqu'on considère la planète, il faut également considérer l'impact des plantes de culture. Il y a 12 000 ans la somme des mammifères domestiques représentait 0,1% des mammifères de la planète ; elle en représente maintenant 10%. La destruction de la biodiversité a été provoquée par la destruction des écosystèmes – Paris était jadis une île.

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l'homme pollue même des espaces où il n'est pas : les mers –, la surexploitation – la pêche et la déforestation pour laisser le temps à la nature de se renouveler –, les déplacements entraînent avec eux des espèces.

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et le climat, ce climat qui change et face auquel nous ne pouvons pas assumer notre part de responsabilité. C'est la planète que nous devons chercher à protéger pour nous et nous survivra. Il faut bien comprendre la nature, mais en dedans. Chaque fois que nous l'attaquons. C'est véritablement stupide. La question devient donc : comment utiliser la nature pour le modifier ? J'aime bien le terme de *résistance* à exister, et donc d'abord résister. À nous d'aller chercher l'alliée qu'elle a toujours été pour y puiser des solutions. De Vinci disait « *prend tes leçons dans la nature* ». Nous avons toujours cherché dans la nature – la bio-inspiration – des solutions à nos problèmes. Mais nous devons avant tout résister à notre cupidité. La nature est parcimonieuse, tandis que l'homme veut maximiser. Une pollution qui met les autres dans la misère. Je ne crois en revanche pas en préconisant l'utilisation de particules pour refroidir l'atmosphère. Ce pourrait techniquement être un processus initié, le CO₂ commencera à s'accroître.

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Repousser les limites de la nature, augmenter l'immortalité (si on y parvient !) : autant de velleïtudes pour la portion la plus aisée de l'humanité. Le déséquilibre des richesses générées provoqueront la montée en puissance des extrémismes et des terrorismes. C'est ce à quoi nous assistons actuellement en Syrie. Son déclenchement – en 2011 – faisait suite à plusieurs années de sécheresse qu'aient vécu le Croissant fertile et la disproportion entre les richesses accumulées par une minorité et la paupérisation de la majorité de la planète. Nous devons retrouver une harmonie avec la nature, apprendre à vivre et rechercher le bien-être plutôt que la richesse. Je crois énormément en la société civile et aux citoyens et les scientifiques.

*Comment expliquer le retour du « sauvage »
Paris ? De quelle manière l'architecture et l'urbanisme
l'ont-ils permis ?*

Les villes ont toujours accueilli une biodiversité
liminaires, rats ou cafards, ces « espèces sauvages »
peuplées. Depuis les années 1970, nous assistons à un retour en ville, du fait de sa verticalité – tout ce qui vole trouve
refuges, aux niches écologiques que cette morphologie offre aux
prédateurs et de la température – bien plus élevée qu'en
des zones tempérées que dans la nature avoisinante.

est observable à Paris avec le retour des faucons,
Notre-Dame, celui des blaireaux et des renards.
l'acclimatation des perruches échappées des cages,
que le retour des loups dans la capitale ! Constatons
espèces de plantes connues en France, 1 000 espèces
compter les plantes exotiques horticoles ou sauvages.
Nous avons créé – avec le Muséum National d'Histoire
programme de science citoyenne appelé « Sauver la
de citadins y participent en nous informant de la présence
dans leur jardin ou de la rencontre avec un oiseau.
ainsi à inventorier et effectuer un suivi très précis.
La ville est un secteur important des sciences de la nature
chacun de participer à l'élaboration et le partage de
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L'architecture et l'urbanisme jouent également un rôle dans la fabrication des lieux de vie et de bien-être. Durant l'été 2003, année de canicule, la France a compté 15 000 décès. Dans les rues bétonnées et les parcs de Paris, on manque d'oxygène. Ramener « la verdure » en ville est absolument nécessaire. Un article paru dans *The Lancet*, l'accès à un environnement urbain réduirait le nombre de maladies durant l'été pour des citadins. Sans oublier que ce type d'espace permet de cultiver des légumes. L'architecture, renouant avec la nature, permet de créer des potagers sur les toits ou de façades végétalisées, ce qui favorise d'espèces de pollinisateurs. Et le miel de Paris n'est évidemment pas question de subvenir à la demande des citadins, mais l'agriculture urbaine permet de produire localement ce qui est perdu. Le seul bémol réside dans l'accès – surtout pour les personnes âgées. Mais le fait que les architectes tendent à devenir plus écologiques est une très bonne chose.

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whereas biodiversity is the part of nature that is alive, born on a mineral substrate, in an earlier geodiversity. Biodiversity is not limited to a sole inventory of species: above and beyond the number of butterflies in a field or bacteria on a surface, it covers all of the relationships

between living beings and also with their environment. This biodiversity is universal, it stretches from forests to seabeds all the way to alluvial plains, but is also found in wines, cheeses, and within the core of each one of us. We cannot live without the biodiversity that composes us, feeds us, dresses us, and lives within us, because the human body is made up of as many bacteria as of human cells.

Does this idea of biodiversity allow us to better understand ecological issues?

The problem is how to better measure our impact on biodiversity if we are not aware of all of the species that inhabit our planet. New bacteria are constantly appearing, species disappear every day without us having noticed their existence; change is constant and life adores that. If disturbances generate diversity, they should nevertheless not be too frequent so as to allow species to settle. Nature is not balanced but tends more toward a harmony of interdependent systems. Another problem is

know which species “deserve” to be protected whether they all have the same importance in maintaining this harmony or whether they have a function or value as a “cornerstone.” The general public is ready to donate a lot to save whales, giraffes, and other remarkable animals, whereas a tick or a beetle will not enjoy the same success. Therefore, it is above all environments that should be protected. *How can we recognize the value of the services provided by nature, which are a matter of common property but*

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Contemporary environmental issues, and notably the collapse with nature. To better grasp the issues, biologist Gilles Boe systems—and biodiversity, its living, universal fraction, that maintain with each other as with their environments. Under way in which nature tends toward a harmony of interdependence level—of the eco-systemic services that it provides to the human arrogance and to look to nature as an ally, something that it is used to develop factors of resilience, by participating, for example. Gilles Boeuf is a

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Developed at the end of the nineteenth century, the idea of “ecosystem services” has really caught on thanks to the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, an event that gathered together almost 1,300 scientists who sought to diagnose the state of the planet’s ecosystems at the time of our entry into the third millennium. This idea raises the question of the difference between value, cost, and price. We are able to say that the horn of the white rhinoceros is worth this amount, or that we would be prepared to pay this or that price to save the redbellied parrotfish. But the value of the service that nature provides to humankind is based on a completely different calculation. I am thinking of the purification of water through rocks, of the production of oxygen by phytoplankton, or even of pollination. We are aware of a little over 2 million living species—recorded in museums—and at least 250,000 of them are pollinators, including many insects, birds, and bats. In China, a country that has been heavily

affected by man's activities, farmers—and in particular women—are forced to pollinate by hand. The annual cost that this would represent for the world in the event of a total disappearance of bees would be close to 180 billion dollars in terms of salaries. Objectively the degradation of our environment costs us dearly, including on a financial level.

What relationship can humanity, which is now principally urban, maintain with this biodiversity?

Sedenterization has generated demographic growth. As a consequence, agriculture and animal breeding have ceased to accompany man in his new living conditions. There were once humans without agriculture, now humanity can no longer exist without it. The development of agriculture has profoundly modified ecosystems. When one considers the impact of mankind on our planet, one must also consider the impact of pets and field crops. Twelve thousand years ago the sum of human beings—5 million—and domestic mammals

represented 0.1 percent of the totality of the mass of mammals on the planet: today they

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The destruction of biodiversity has been caused by different factors: the destruction

of ecosystems—Paris was once a forest; generalized pollution—Man even manages to pollute spaces where he is not present, like the Arctic or the oceans; over-exploitation—fish and deforestation have become too intensive to allow nature to recover and renew itself; dissemination—our movements bring exotic and invasive species along with them; and the climate, this changing climate, in the face of which one would have to be of terribly bad faith to not assume one's own responsibility. It is as much our own well being as that of the planet that we should seek to protect. The Earth existed long before us, and will survive long after we are gone. It is very important to understand that we do not exist alongside nature, but are very much a part of it. Every time we attack it, we are attacking ourselves. It is truly stupid.

The question then becomes: how can the restrictions of this system be used to modify it? I really like the term *resiliency*, but in order to be resilient one must exist, and so, first,

resist. It is up to us to go and find in nature the ally that she has always been, so as to draw upon factors of resistance. Leonardo da Vinci said “*take lessons from Nature, our future is there.*” We have always looked to nature

through biomimicry or bio-inspiration—for solutions to our problems, because nature has encountered and resolved them before us. But we should above all break with our arrogance and our greed. Nature is parsimonious, it is constantly optimizing, while man wants only to maximize. A handful manage to do this, but at the cost of plunging the others into misery. Nevertheless, I have no faith in the answers provided by demiurges who advocate the use of nanoparticles to reduce the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere. It could be technically possible, but once the process has been initiated,

the carbon dioxide will begin to accumulate and it will be impossible to stop it. Pushing back nature's limits, increasing our abilities or becoming immortal (if we succeed) so many desires that are only of concern to the richest part of humanity. The systematic imbalance and the inequalities generated will result in the rise of new fundamentalisms and terrorisms. We can see this currently with the war in Syria. Its outbreak in 2011 came in the wake of the twelve worst years of drought that the fertile crescent had seen in over three centuries. The disproportion between the wealth accumulated, the financialization of the economy, and the impoverishment of the majority of the planet is not "sustainable". We have to return to a state of harmony with nature, curbing this race toward profit, seeking well-being rather than wealth. This is the reason why I strongly believe in civil society and in a dialog that involves all citizens and

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*How can we explain the return of the
“wild” in a city like Paris? In what
way can the architect and urban*

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Cities have always played host to a particular form of biodiversity. Pests, rats, or cockroaches, these “wild urbanized species” populated them first. Since the seventies, we have seen a return of birds to cities, because of their verticality—anything that flies has better access to smaller refuges, to the ecological niche that this morphology provides—with predators being rare and much higher temperatures in winter in cities in milder zones than in the surrounding nature. This urban biodiversity can be observed in Paris with the return of Peregrine falcons around the bell tower of

Notre-Dame, and badgers and foxes in the Père-Lachaise cemetery, or the acclimatization of parakeets that have escaped from aviaries. All we need now is for wolves to return to the capital! With regard to plant life, of the 7,000 known species in France, 1,000 have been recorded in Paris, not counting exotic horticultural or spontaneous plants. This is m
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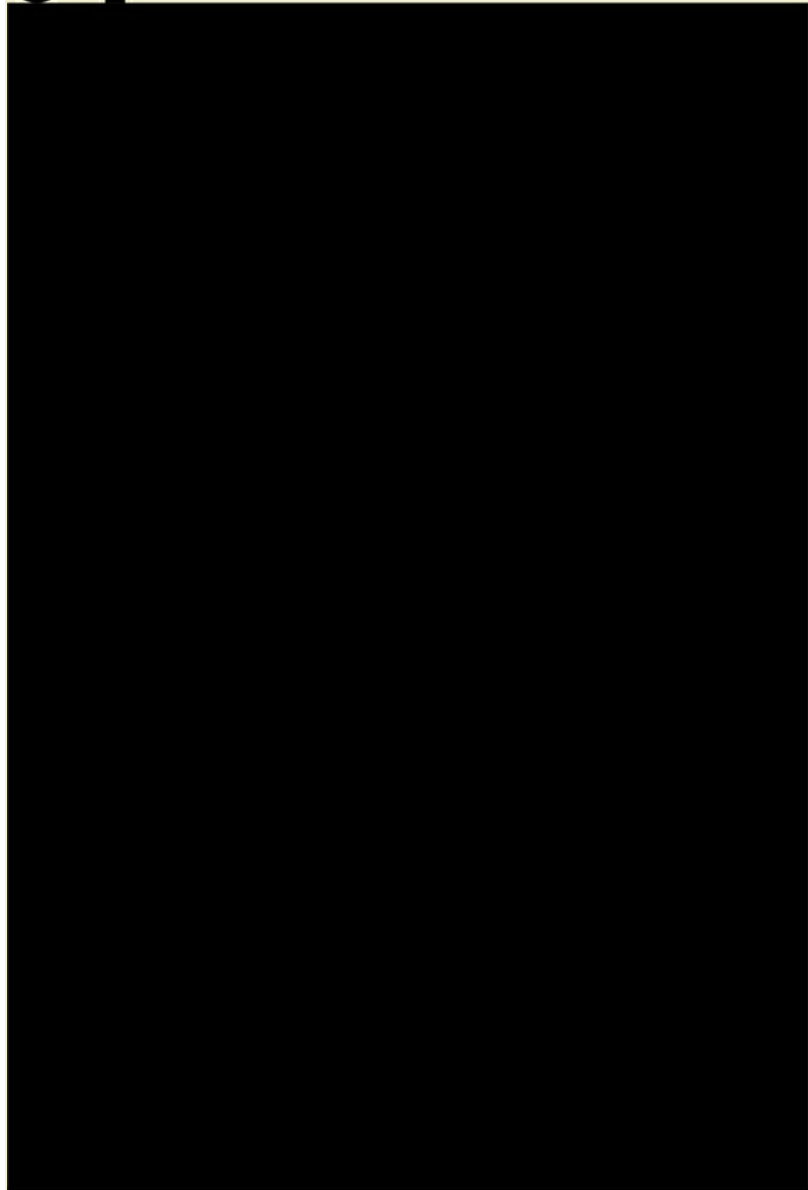
With the Museum of Natural History we have created a science program for city dwellers called “Sauvages de ma rue” (The wild things of my street). Many thousands of people living in cities participate by informing us of the presence of a new plant in their garden or an encounter with a migrating bird.

In this way, they help us to inventory and carry out very precise monitoring of urban biodiversity. The city is an important sector of the participatory sciences, and allowing each one of us to participate in the development and sharing of knowledge seems essential to me. Architecture and urban planning also play essential roles in the creation of places for life and well being. During the first fortnight of August 2003, the year of the heatwave, almost 15,000 people died in France. Between the concrete streets and the parks of Paris, we measured almost eight degrees of difference in temperature. Bringing “greenery” back to the city is absolutely fundamental, all the more so in the wake of an article that appeared in *The Lancet*, saying that access to a green space at the heart of a large city has reduced the number of illnesses in the populations of cities over the last thirty years. Not forgetting that these types of spaces also reduce social inequalities. Architecture, reconnecting with nature, also allows the installation of vegetable gardens.

on roofs and grass-covered facades, homes for many hundreds of pollinating species. And the honey produced in Paris is of exceptionally high quality! It is obviously not a question of providing for all of the nutritional needs of city dwellers, but urban agriculture does allow us to re-engage with a lost well being. The only downside is the often uneven access to these gardens. But the fact that architects tend to become, if not environmentalists, at least ecologists is ultimately a very good thing.

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«Artefacts naturels» et écosystèmes urbains

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*si l'on considère que ce qui est
artificiel ne peut être naturel.*

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*nous invitent-elles à considérer
un rapprochement entre ces deux*

En lisant de nombreux ouvrages de

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américains, j'ai remarqué qu'un grand flou entourait les objets créés par l'homme et « semblables » à la nature. Il apparaît extrêmement difficile de les définir, mais aussi de leur donner un cadre éthique et politique. Je suis donc partie d'une question très simple : « Y a-t-il des choses non naturelles ? » la réponse spontanée est évidemment positive, bien qu'il soit extrêmement difficile de distinguer ce qui relève de l'action humaine. Une expérience particulière de Tim Ingold, consiste à se demander ce que des personnes identifieraient comme objet naturel ou artefact pour établir cette distinction. La première condition est humaine, critère paradoxal puisqu'il suppose de produire des choses naturelles et donc qu'il

nature. Il n'y a aucune raison de se considérer
faisant pas partie de cet ensemble.

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La vogue des projets de réintégration du végétal en ville interroge nos définitions du naturel et de l'artificiel. Conjuguant ses recherches en philosophie environnementale et sa pratique urbanistique, Marion Waller développe le concept d'« artefact naturel ». Il s'agit de donner un cadre éthique et politique à des objets créés par l'homme, « semblables » à la nature et dotés d'autonomie. Son analyse bat en brèche la vision commune de toute intervention humaine sur l'environnement comme

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réduisant l'opposition ville-nature. Plutôt que de « restaurer » et sanctuariser la nature, elle invite à accepter de modifier le vivant, à le réintégrer dans la ville selon un modèle de « réhabitation », en multipliant les occasions d'interactions entre les écosystèmes et en tissant des milieux variés au sein de l'espace urbain.

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Il est difficile par exemple de différencier un l
corbeille tressée par un être humain, un mat
cas « tissé ». Ce qui distingue donc le barrage
autre que la nature de son « fabriquant », anin
ce qui me semble une distinction assez minc
que j'ai défini comme *une entité intentionne*
s'apparenter à des processus naturels et po
ne recouvre donc pas la totalité des objets cré
ceux qui peuvent s'inscrire dans des process
contre-exemple: une piste de ski à Dubaï est n
créée par l'homme qui ne s'inscrit dans aucun
inimaginable d'avoir de la neige aux Émirats
artefact naturel. Inversement, une parcelle d
la morphologie est semblable à son contexte
Elle peut se détacher progressivement de l'in

même. En cela, elle peut être qualifiée d'*arte*
à la création d'artefacts naturels : un principe
de « *sur-naturel* » –, un principe d'autonomie
la nature – en opposition à celui de « contre n
La notion d'artefacts naturels me permet de l

y compris chez certains mouvements écologiques, la nature humaine sur la nature comme négative. L'argument du *design*, terme d'ailleurs difficile à traduire, préexiste dans l'esprit avant d'être reproduit par beaucoup de penseurs. Cela induit l'idée que la nature ne pourrait être qu'anthropocentrique. Il serait absurde ou penser quelque chose qui bénéficierait à la nature de interventions humaines néfastes à la nature, mais ils ne doivent pas nous convaincre que la nature est mauvaise par principe, justifiant qu'il s'expose, il n'aurait plus sa place. Cette idée me paraît dangereuse, elle laisse penser que l'homme n'est pas une création, mais aux politiques visant à recréer une nature « vivante », évidemment positifs sous de nombreux aspects, mais elle a des dérives, notamment l'interdiction de ce qui n'est pas. Dans un contexte de crise écologique intense, l'idée que sa place dans un système naturel est une erreur est une erreur contraire important de renforcer les liens entre la nature et multiplier les objets hybrides – ces artefacts qui nous aident de tisser la nature, d'apprendre d'elle, de s'en inspirer. *En introduisant un rapport renouvelé avec la nature, les humains modifient-ils notre rapport au vivant ? Et cela ouvre-t-il dans les champs de l'écologie*

Le rôle majeur des artefacts naturels est de créer un lien entre l'être humain et la nature. Pour créer un jardin, il est indispensable d'en comprendre le mode de fonctionnement. Dans un écosystème il ne faut pas s'en tenir à distance, mais être au milieu, entre implication et attention, entre différentes manières de jardiner, mais les principes indissociables de cette pratique doivent nous guider. Le jardin est certes un écosystème dans lequel on agit, mais selon une approche de l'ordre de la précaution, extrêmement importante dans la définition de notre rôle à l'ère de l'Anthropocène, où l'être humain est devenu maître sur la nature, il est impératif d'assumer notre responsabilité envers les vivants. Hans Jonas, un des premiers penseurs de la philosophie de l'environnement, a défini le principe d'une éthique tournée vers le futur. Il défend l'impératif de l'intégrité du milieu et s'assure de ne pas créer de dommages irréversibles. Le principe de précaution du vivant s'inscrit dans cette approche. La restauration écologique est un débat très sensible, car pour réparer un écosystème endommagé, on ne peut que reproduire la nature elle-même. Pour cela, il faut absolument le reproduire à l'identique, sans référence arbitraire à travers le temps. Mais c'est

quelque chose de totalement nouveau grâce
tendance est de revenir à une nature « vierge »
l'arrivée des premiers colons européens. Cet
que l'on choisit de figer est éminemment poli
que la manière dont nous nous projetons sur
nous désirons nous positionner culturellement
ou faire oublier certaines périodes de l'histoire.
Vous explicitez dans votre ouvrage les concepts
« réhabilitation » et « réhabitation ». Dans votre
ouvrage, au près du cabinet de Jean-Louis Missika, en
d'urbanisme et d'attractivité de Paris, voyez-vous
des applications pratiques à ces différentes notions
d'intégrer ou restaurer la nature en ville ?

On ne peut pas envisager la notion d'artefact
distinction entre ville et nature. Si l'on considère
à l'homme, n'est pas une solution, il n'est pas
comme réservées à l'espèce humaine. C'est p
commune, la ville comme espace où la présence
indésirable. La végétalisation, le développement
question de l'approvisionnement alimentaire
peu à peu dans les esprits l'opposition tranchée
même presque évident qu'on ne peut désormais
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«Artefacts naturels» et écosystèmes urbains

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J'utilise ainsi les artefacts naturels comme m...
Chaque immeuble doit être vu comme ressou...
êtres vivants peuvent trouver leur place, où i...
possibles. Il est indispensable de saisir chaqu...
variés au sein du tissu urbain. Aucune ville n...
Paris est souvent présentée comme une ville...
disparaître une part de la nature, entre autre...
s'agit là d'un moment de son Histoire. Paris n...
pourraient être choisies comme référence, o...
plus quotidienne. Ce rapport au temps doit v...
Il est intéressant de considérer la restauratio...
restauration artistique ou architecturale. La...
ou de réinventer quelque chose de nouveau –
vers l'avenir – se pose de la même façon. La n...
l'idée qu'il serait irréal de reproduire à l'ident...
y a de fait évolution à travers le temps. Recré...
contexte nouveau revient à le sanctuariser e...
avec les êtres vivants ayant progressé entrete...
bâtiments et les œuvres d'art. Plutôt que de r...
une interaction entre un écosystème et les ac...
qui souhaitent apprendre de lui. De par cette

me semble plus importante que la réhabilitation : copier à l'identique quelque chose qui n'a souvent pas existé, voir exister comme on la fantasme.

Les animaux, les castors, les fourmis... modifier le milieu, nous ne sommes pas les seuls à *designer* un lieu. Les habitats souterrains des fourmis ou les nids de castors sont des éléments substantielles du milieu, au même titre que nous. Il ne faut pas concevoir la nature comme figée, d'imaginer un milieu figé. Il faut toujours replacer l'action humaine dans le milieu. Il faut toujours replacer l'action humaine avec les autres êtres naturels, notamment à travers la forêt, le paysage et l'urbanisme, dans la création du « cocon » de la ville. Il faut penser leur inscription au milieu naturel au même titre que nous. Nous devons également nous extraire de l'idée que l'impact de l'environnement par l'espèce humaine ne peut être contrôlé. C'est l'est – qu'à elle-même. De la même manière que nous ne pouvons l'œuvre d'énormément d'êtres vivants, en particulier les animaux, essentiel de prendre en considération que ce n'est pas un monde anthropocentrique. Nous sommes tout à fait capables de le faire de manière à ce qu'ils bénéficient à beaucoup. Il faut donc que les paysagistes, architectes, urbanistes et de nombreux autres endossent le rôle d'experts en écosystèmes. Il faut donc penser de petits nids, des corbeilles pouvant servir à

The title of your book appears to be an oxymoron if one considers that what is artificial cannot be natural. How do you then define “natural artifacts”? Do the changes occurring in the world today, in particular in terms of the environment and technology, invite us to consider that these two extremes are

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What emerged from the many publications

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American texts in particular—was that there was always a lot of fuzziness regarding objects that are created by man but that are akin to nature. We find it very hard to define them but also to clarify their ethical and political

context. For this reason, I started off from a very basic question: “Are there any non

natural things?” The first and obvious answer to this question is of course affirmative, though it is extremely difficult to differentiate what proceeds from “nature” and what proceeds from human action. Tim Ingold came up with a very interesting thought experiment: which objects would aliens from outer space identify as being natural or artifacts, and what criteria would they use to draw this distinction? The first criterion would be whether an object has been made by a human being or not, which is counterintuitive given that it implies that human beings are incapable of producing natural things and that they therefore are not a product of nature. There is in fact no reason whatsoever to view ourselves as being *super*

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natural and not forming part of this oneness. It is extremely difficult for instance to differentiate a beaver dam from a basket that

was woven by a human being. In both cases, there is a natural material that is “woven” into something. What makes the beaver dam and the basket different is simply the essence of its maker—an animal in one instance, and a human being in the other. I find this difference to be rather modest, hence the use of the word “natural artifact,” which I defined as being “an entity that has been deliberately created by human beings yet that may be akin to natural processes and that has a potential for autonomy.” Not all objects created by human

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The popularity of projects that seek to reintegrate plant-life
natural and the artificial. Combining research in the field of

tice, Marion Waller has developed the concept of the “natu
framework for man-made objects that “resemble” nature a
of the common vision whereby every human intervention o
the importance of reinforcing the links between man and n
natural artifacts become a model in urban planning practic
than trying to “restore” and sanctuarize nature, it invites us
the city according to a model of “rehabilitation,” by increasi
and by interweaving diverse environments within the urba

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“Natural Artifacts” and Urban Ecosystems

are therefore covered by this definition, but only those that are akin to natural processes. To give a counterexample, a sky slope in Dubai is a form of natural landscape that is created by man but that is not part of any form of continuity, given that it is inconceivable that there would be any snow in the United Arab Emirates; it could therefore not be a natural artifact. Conversely, a patch of forest that was replanted by human beings but that has a morphology that is comparable to that of its surroundings has a potential for autonomy; it can gradually move away from human influence and exist on its own and, as such, it qualifies as a “natural artifact.” Three principles guide the creation of natural artifacts: a reality principle (opposed to that of “*super*-naturalness”), a principle of autonomy, and a principle of continuity with nature (opposed to that of “*un*-naturalness”). The idea of natural artifacts provides a way of countering a common fallacy, pervasive even among environmental groups, according to

which any human intervention in nature is intrinsically negative. The argument of design is commonly put forward: the idea that a form preexists in the mind of its builder before being reproduced in nature is a problem for many thinkers. It implies that anything human being design can only be anthropocentric. Human beings would therefore be unable to create or think up anything that could benefit other living beings. There are indeed a wide variety of examples of adverse human interventions in nature, yet this should not prompt us into believing that any human action is intrinsically negative. This would indeed mean that there is no place for humankind in nature and justify getting out of it entirely, which is an idea I find particularly egregious because it suggests that human beings aren't a part of nature. Policies aiming to recreate a virgin wilderness come to mind. Natural parks are of course beneficial in many ways, but they are also conducive to many excesses, for instance when humans are deliberately kept out of certain ecosystems.

In a time of intense environmental crisis, it would be a fundamental error to consider that human beings have no place in a natural system. On the contrary, I believe it is important for humanity to become more involved with nature by increasing the number of hybrid objects, *i.e.*, natural artifacts, which allow all of us to transform nature, learn from it, and get closer to it.

Are natural artifacts changing our relationship to the living world by fostering a closer relationship to nature? What prospects does this open up in the environmental and political

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The key role of natural artifacts is to create a special relationship between humankind and

nature. To create an object that is akin to nature, it is crucial to understand its underlying mode of being. Likewise, to recreate an ecosystem, we must not maintain any distance from it but rather plunge right into it. This connection to the environment, midway between involvement and attention, is quite similar to gardening. There are different approaches to gardening but the principle of care and responsibility are a necessary part of gardening and they must guide us in our relation to the environment. It is true that humans are constantly intervening in the gardens, yet they also largely tend to follow a precautionary approach, which is something that must absolutely be included in the definition of a new relation to the living world. In the era of the Anthropocene, now that humankind has become the main geological force acting on nature, it is essential that we live up to our responsibility toward other living beings. Hans Jonas, one of the first thinkers to have really taken interest in environmental philosophy, defined the *imperative of responsibility* as a

future-oriented ethics. He argues that we must act so that the effects of our actions maintain the integrity of the natural environment and prevent future disasters, and offers the precautionary principle as a way of addressing

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The debate on environmental restoration is a highly symbolic one. Many people believe that to restore an ecosystem that has been damaged by human beings or a natural disaster it is crucial that it should be restored to its former self, which implies arbitrarily choosing a historical benchmark. Others would rather invent something completely new through the use of technology. In the United States, there is a tendency to aim for an untouched “virgin wilderness,” similar to what had existed prior to the arrival of the first European colonists. This rhetoric of restorative nostalgia is imbued with politics however. We must not lose sight of the fact that the way we project ourselves on the living world reveals the way in which we would like to position ourselves on a cultural level. Nature is sometimes used to erase or to cover up certain periods of human history. *In your book, you clarify the concepts of “restoration,” “rehabilitation,” and “rehabitation.” In your work as an*

advisor to the Deputy Mayor of Paris, Jean-Louis Missika, did you see any practical applications to these various theoretical ways of embedding or restoring nature in an urban context?

We cannot address the concept of natural artifacts without examining the distinction between city and nature. If we consider that a “virgin wilderness,” with no humans allowed is not a solution, then it is not possible to conceive of cities as being reserved for human beings either. This is a relatively common view however, that of the city as a place where the presence of animals is made invisible or is even rejected. However, the greening of cities, the development of urban agriculture, and the increase of urban food supply are gradually softening the perceived unequivocal opposition between city and nature. It now even appears obvious that we cannot view cities as self-contained

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The concept of natural artifacts is an important part of my practice. Each building must be seen as belonging to an ecosystem in which other living beings can find their place and where a great variety of possible interactions must be imagined. It is critical that each opportunity to create varied ecosystem within the urban fabric be seized. No city ever loses anything from being reintegrated by nature. Paris is often presented as a miner city, and, admittedly, part of the natural environment was eradicated, among other reasons due to the sanitary movement of the

late nineteenth century, but that is but one moment of its history. Paris hasn't always been like that, and other periods could be chosen as a reference, times when nature was more widespread and present in the everyday life of Parisians. This way of thinking about time must really guide our day-to-day undertakings. It is interesting to consider the issue of environmental restoration from the vantage point of artistic or architectural restoration. The question of whether to return to an initial state or to reinvent something new that would be inspired by the past but forward-looking is very much the same. The notion of *rehabitation* refers to the fact that it would be fictitious to replicate the past given that things in fact change over time. Recreating an ecosystem from the past in a new context amounts to transforming it into a sanctuary. This deprives it of possibilities of interactions with those living beings that have progressed in the meantime. The same goes for buildings and works of art. Rather than restoring them, *rehabitation* seems

to create an interaction between an ecosystem and the players within it, usually humans, that we wish to learn from it. Given this educational value, I find *rehabilitation* more important than *rehabilitation* or *restoration*, where the idea is to reproduce something that often never was and that we would like to see exist just as we

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“Natural Artifacts” and Urban Ecosystems

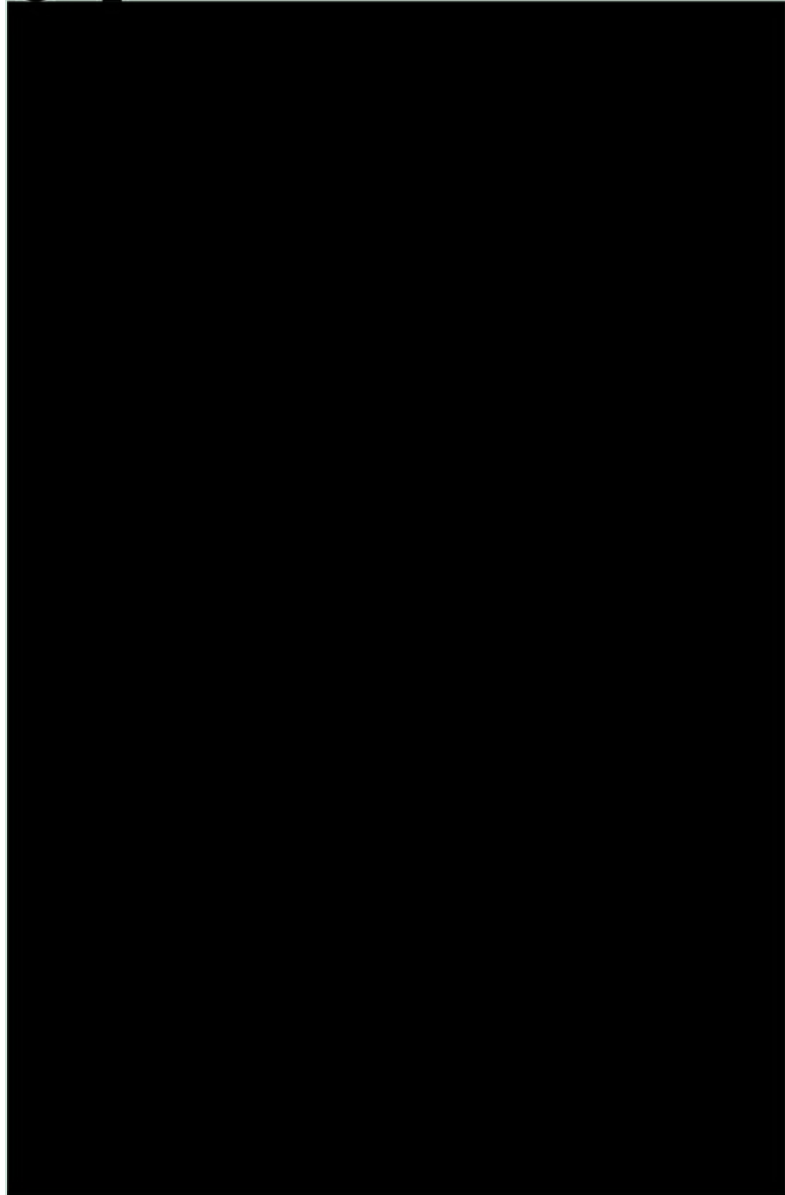
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Beavers, ants, and other animals are continually modifying their habitat. We are therefore not the only ones to *design* places. galleries and burrows are substantial structures that modify their immediate surroundings in the same way as human architecture does. It is a mistake to consider that nature is static and that only human beings transform their habitat. Human action must always be viewed in the continuum of the other natural living beings, in particular through the issue of habitat. Architecture and urban planning, whether it is the creation of the “cocoon” or residential unit, must consider how these will form part of the natural environment, just as happens in a natural way.

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We must also abstract ourselves from the idea that human-driven environmental modifications are necessarily detrimental to nature and beneficial only to human beings. In the same way that soil quality is the result of the work of a huge number of living beings, earthworms in particular, it is crucial that we take heed of the fact that human creations extend beyond the anthropocentric. We are perfectly capable of developing ecosystems in order to make them beneficial to many other living beings. This is the job of landscape planners, architects, urban planners, and all other participants in urban development. They should be taking on the role of ecosystem experts to weave new habitats by creating small nests and hideouts that can be useful to other species.

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La ville est un système complexe et dynamique. Pour l'appréhender deux métaphores majeures sont souvent mobilisées, comme l'a souligné Italo Calvino : la machine et le corps, l'artificiel et le vivant (on parle en anglais de « *vibrant* » ou « *dynamic cities* »).

La ville est une grande création artificielle humaine, on peut la dire machinique ou organique, voire « vivante ». Ce jeu de métaphores entre machine et organisme traverse toute l'histoire de la pensée occidentale. Première version : la ville serait une immense machine, voire un automate, associée à l'industrialisation, et même un monstre froid (version infernale et dystopique). Depuis le XIX^e siècle notamment, elle est aussi comparée à un corps vivant, voire à un être humain, pour souligner sa dynamique, sa créativité et sa capacité d'innovation (version utopique). Ces métaphores sont contemporaines de l'industrialisation qui a amplifié

l'urbanisation. La convocation du vivant pour le
pied du déferlement techno-industriel, des r
de toutes les nuisances ou « externalités » né
Clément Rosset, « L'Anti-Nature » c'est la Na
une chose par son opposé naturel : par exemp
de la nature. La cité serait « anti » : artificielle
la nature, les animaux, la verdure, la pureté, l
la cité ou figure complémentaire de l'imagina
signifiant la « destruction créatrice » ? Car là
urbaine : la vie ou la mort. La ville serait vivan

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La Ville « vivante
ou la ville-texte

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Réintégrer la biodiversité dans l'espace
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également un contrepoint à l'idée de ville automatique, la *smart city*, portée par les algorithmes, les données et l'intelligence artificielle. La ville est ainsi surtout texte, support de nos imaginaires, angoisses

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La Ville «vivante» ou la ville-texte?

continuellement animée par des flux d'hommes, de réseaux techniques, économiques, énergétiques. Une ville « morte », ou « qui se meurt », est une ville à cause des émigrations ou des fermetures d'activités. La ville peut aussi mourir d'asphyxie par les pressions de la surpopulation : en 2050, 70 % de la population mondiale vivra dans des villes. La ville serait « invivable ».

Italo Calvino : « *Nous nous approchons peut-être de la fin de la vie urbaine, et Les Villes invisibles sont un témoignage de villes invivables. On parle actuellement avec la même inquiétude du milieu naturel et de la fragilité des grands espaces. La croissance peut entraîner des dégâts en série, paralysant la vie. La crise de la ville trop grande est le revers de la médaille. Possible mort encore pour les villes dont les limites sont émiettées, éclatées, tellement étendues qu'elles disparaissent dans les zones grises ou floues de la périphérie, d'asphyxie, par abandon ou par dispersion ? La ville meurt justement. Voilà une des origines de la métamorphose (la ville sa fragilité et la connoter positivement comme la ville morte). Pour le philosophe Georges Candès, la ville est définie par quatre traits³ : la spécificité, l'individualisation, la centralité, que la ville est vivante revient à la dire mortelle.*

La ville naît, grandit et meurt.

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Dans l'Occident moderne, l'image de la circulation identifie le vivant depuis que William Harvey a découvert la continuité du sang dans le corps humain: sa circulation interrompue signifie la mort. La circulation est ainsi le référent de la vision de l'organisme

parvenait à la conclusion que le sang d'un animal est contenu dans un appareil fermé où elle circule en un cercle. »⁴ Est là en germe une conception de la ville organisée par la circulation de multiples fluides (sanguins, lymphatiques...). La ville est vivante, un réseau réticulaire, fait de flux, voies, artères, conduits, et que les réseaux font la ville est primordiale, qu'ils soient culturels ou économiques. Si les réseaux techniques (électricité, énergie, communication), la vie en ville s'intensifie. Ce qui fait la ville est ce qui s'y passe : des rencontres, des actions, favorisés ou suscités par des réseaux.

Italo Calvino : « *les villes sont des lieux d'échanges, ce ne sont pas les livres d'histoire économique, mais ce ne sont pas des livres de marchandises, ce sont des échanges de m*

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préface à *Les Villes*

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Nous sommes en ville pour habiter, agir et non
corporelle ou biosphérique de la cité signifie
lamarckien du terme. Au début du XIX^e siècle
phénomène de la vie par deux faits : la structu
et la circulation des liquides à l'intérieur de c
complémentaires et nécessaires : l'existence
continue de fluides à l'intérieur. L'ambiva
flux, le corps fonctionne) et de la mort (pann
est consubstantielle à cette métaphore et à la
flux dans des « capacités ». Le philosophe Sai
lamarckienne de la vie pour concevoir la soci
circulant dans la capacité des corps organi
développement et l'entretien du phénomène
Léon Simon rapporte dans *Conversations a*
saint-simonien Enfantin lui déclara : « *Je con*
ayant la forme humaine. La tête, c'est le tem
le corps sacerdotal ; des deux côtés, les sava
les musiciens, et les autres artistes, je suppo
achevées, ici, au cou, sont les chemins par o
rendent à leurs demeures respectives et à le
je vois les académies, les universitaires, les
se rapporte à l'élaboration et à l'enseigne

ateliers de production. Puis ces cuisses, ces
les Champs-Élysées et le bois de Boulogne. A
les salles de danse, les théâtres, les lieux de
Dans la foulée saint-simonienne, les métaph
ville se multiplient. Les urbanistes parlent de
le centre au « cœur de la ville », et les « poumo
espaces verts. Dans les souterrains de la cité,
égouts. Dans *Le Ventre de Paris*, Émile Zola c
de la capitale construites sous le second Emp
Yves Stourdzé rapporte ce texte d'Alexis Lég
chemins de fer français en 1842 : les chemins
extrémités le mouvement et la vie ; et les extr
cœur de l'État le mouvement et la vie qu'elles
imaginaire des réseaux travaille toujours la n

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S S E D U C O N C E P T D E « V I E »

L'inflation des métaphores conduit à questionner
Cet étrange concept a une double signification
grecque : à la fois *zoé* pour désigner la vie en c

et le développement et *bios* pour définir la forme.
Ce concept a aussi une histoire : il est précisé
de la période 1750-1850. Comme l'a bien montré
d'un concept de transition entre deux grands
D'Aristote jusqu'au milieu du XVIII^e siècle, l'

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La Ville «vivante» ou la ville-texte?

à une machine. Pour Aristote, la finalité organique est spécialisée : les organes du mouvement animal sont assimilés à des parties de machines de guerre, par exemple pour lancer un projectile. La machine est modèle de vie dans le cas des automates.

Ce modèle d'explication mécaniste de la vie - au tout fonctionne comme élément d'un mécanisme - du XVIII^e siècle, sous les critiques de Buffon et Laplace, fut alors déplacée de la recherche de l'énergie vitale (origine divine) à une force interne de l'organisme pour l'auto-reproduction. Entre un modèle qui s'effondre et un autre encore advenu, dans l'attente de nouveaux paradigmes, on a assimilé à la position dans laquelle il se trouvait à cette période qualifiée par Canguilhem de « pré-mechaniste » le concept de vie qui donne même naissance à une physiologie (Bordeu, Bichat). Cette physiologie est marquée par trois points : 1. la fin du modèle « technologique » de l'organisme mécaniste, c'est-à-dire de Dieu, le corps devient une machine ; 2. l'anatomie « statique », qui nécessitait d'aller au-delà du fonctionnement de l'organisme, et 3. la suite de la physiologie qui fait du corps un langage qui « parle de lui-même ». Voilà trois clefs pour expliquer le succès de la

la société et la ville : le vivant est autonome, d
Le corps humain libéré de sa référence à la m
s'instaure en modèle de rationalité en-soi, sa
auto-organisé, auto-reproduit, auto-conserv
se reproduit et s'adapte. Elle est « auto » et pa
versus artifice). La ville-vivante, être auton
Avec la théorie cellulaire, le rapport du tout e
de façon neuve : une partie, c'est-à-dire la cel
totalité est incluse en germe, dans la partie. D
l'organisme renvoyait à la machine ; dans le m
élaboré par Claude Bernard, il réfère à l'usine
bien faire comprendre la théorie cellulaire, C
à une ville, « *une cité ayant son cachet spéci*
La métaphore ville-organisme devient réver
rationnel s'identifient. Dans son beau livre su

Edith Schlanger souligne que « *la pensée de l*
et devient le modèle et l'archétype de la ratio
rationnel sont synonymes »¹⁰. Autrement di
corps social s'appuie sur l'idée que tous deux
analysables, selon une logique identique. Au
modèle de rationalité pour les autres systèm
par la cité. Après que la philosophie des Lum

« physiologie baroque » lui offrit un modèle d
le corps rationalisé-médicalisé sert d'analyse
la ville. L'organisme étant le système naturel
grille de lecture pour le système urbain comp

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Depuis le milieu du XIX^e siècle, le concept de
emploi métaphorique ne fait qu'accentuer ce
à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale, Claude
vacuité : « *La vie n'est qu'un mot qui veut dire*
qu'on ignore la cause d'un phénomène : ainsi
la « force vitale ». Qualifier la ville de « vivante
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Aux tissus du vivant décryptés par Bichat, su

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Poursuivons la critique. Ce n'est pas seulement

aussi ses représentations et les paradigmes q
du corps vivant ne cesse d'évoluer. Corps-tec

réseau, corps-machine, corps hybride, cybo
du vivant est devenu cybernétique parce que
l'ordinateur, ou l'automate. Le corps doté d'u
mesurable, calculable et codable. Alors on pe
automate également doté d'un logiciel, l'Inte
city traitant des masses de données collectée
les utilisateurs. La « ville vivante » serait-elle
de la ville automatique que dessine l'horizon
plutôt le prolongement de l'imaginaire d'un c
corps urbain ? Anti ou auto ?

Le paradigme physiologique offre aussi un m
triomphe le regard. Le « vivant » étant auto-r
extérieure (divine) pour éclairer son fonction
La vérité se voit... dans les formes, les structu
corps et de la « ville vivante » : il est inutile d'a
ni un Dieu caché, tout est là visible, exposé en
L'anatomie de la cité est suffisante. Le parad
ville est « *d'entendre un langage au moment*
le note Michel Foucault. En effet, le glissement

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lisible = énonçable. C'est pourquoi la ville est
(Roland Barthes), fait de signes, de récits et d
*« villes sont un ensemble de beaucoup de choses
signes d'un langage. »* Les villes considérées
métaphores, comme la lumière les papillons
des couples corps vivant/machine, naturel/a
maniant ces ambivalences, les villes disent to
leur fragilité. Pour interpréter la ville dans so
l'appréhender comme un texte. Michel Butor
*« premières grandes villes sont contemporai
sens propre du terme¹¹ »*. La ville-texte serai
de flux, soit un corpus plutôt qu'un corps.

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The city is a complex and dynamic system. In order to approach it, two major metaphors are often used, as pointed out by Italo Calvino: the machine and the body, the artificial and the living (in English we often speak of “vibrant”

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The city is a huge, artificial, human creation, one that could be called mechanical or organic, “alive” even. This game of metaphor between machine and organism runs through the entire history of Western thought. In the first version, the city is a huge machine, an automaton associated with industrialization, a cold monster even (the hellish and dystopian version). Since the nineteenth century in particular, it has also been compared to a living body, or even a human being, to emphasize its dynamic nature, creativity, and capacity for innovation (the utopian version). These metaphors are contemporaries of the industrialization that has amplified urbanization. The use of the living to identify the city was to counter a techno-industrial onslaught, multiple networks, pollution, and all kinds of nuisances or negative “externalities.” As the philosopher Clément Rosset says, “An

Nature” is Nature *anti*,¹ a way of defining a thing by its natural opposite: for example, the city posited as the opposite of nature. The city would be “anti”: artificial, it must then recover and once again find life, nature, animals, greenery, purity, calm, etc. A new utopia of the city or the complementary figure of the always ambivalent fantasy of the city as signifier of “creative

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innovations, this is the issue:

one of life and death. The city is

essentially alive, as it is creative

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by the flow of men and goods circulating in technical, economic, energetic, and also social networks. Thus a “dead” or “dying” city is an abandoned, dehumanized one, whether through emigration or the closure of businesses and retail outlets. A city can also die by suffocation from pollution, by becoming too big, or due to overpopulation: in 2050, 70

percent of the world's population will live in cities. The city will become "unbearable."

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*"It looks, indeed, as if we are approaching
a period of crisis in urban life;
and Invisible Cities is like a
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Reintegrating biodiversity into urban space raises profound questions. Specialist of imaginaries, philosopher Pierre Musso explores the city as a machine or an organism, a game of metaphors and automaton associated with industrialization, its assimilation and onslaught of industry. The city is alive because it is creative and also because of its vulnerability, exposed like every life-form to dispersion. Reliant on its networks, it is fundamentally reticent. The success of the idea of the living city also forms a counterpoint to the city by algorithms, data, and artificial intelligence. The city is the

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of the unlivable cities we know. Nowadays people talk with equal insistence of the destruction of the natural environment and of the fragility of the large-scale technological systems (which may cause a sort of chain reaction of breakdowns, paralyzing entire metropolises). The crisis of the overgrown city is the other side of the crisis of the natural

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This is a possible death for cities whose limits have become blurred: spread out, fragmented, exploded, becoming so extended that the frontiers between urban and rural are disappearing in the grey and blurred zones now called “rurban.” Suffocating to death, through abandonment or through dispersion

The city is vulnerable just like life itself. This is one of the origins of the metaphor of the “living city”: emphasizing its fragility and connoting it positively as a permanent creation (*versus* the dead city). For the philosopher Georges Canguilhem, to be alive requires four

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irreversibility, and totality.³ To say that the city is alive is to say that it is mortal, to set a temporal horizon for it. The city is born, grows, and then dies.

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In the modern West, the image of

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the organism has been used
to describe the living since
1628 when William Harvey
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circulation of blood within the human body: its continuity guarantees life, its interruption means death. Circulation and the figure of the circle also became referents for a vision of the organism: “Harvey,” says Canguilhem, “came to the conclusion that the blood of an animal is a given liquid mass contained with a closed system where it circulates, in other words, it moves in a circle.”⁴ Here we have the beginning of the notion of the organism conceived as a totality.

organized by the circulation of multiple fluids within networks (nervous, blood, lymphatic). The city is alive because it is a reticular system made up of flows, avenues, arteries, conduits, pipes, crossroads, etc. The idea that networks make up the city is primordial, whether they are technical, social, cultural, or economic. If the technical networks (transport, energy, communication) come to a halt, life in the city is suspended.

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What makes a city is what happens within it: encounters, events, and actions, favored or stimulated by sociocultural networks of all kinds. Italo Calvino says that the city “is a place of exchange, as any textbook of economic history will tell you—only, these exchanges are not just trade in goods, they also involve words, desires, and memories.” We are in the city to live, act, and meet each other. So the bodily or biospheric metaphor of the city signifies its “life” and its “vitality” in the sense that Jean-Baptiste Lamarck used the term. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the father of biology explained the

phenomenon of life through the use of two facts: the elementary tubular structure of the body and the circulation of liquids within the tubes. The two conditions are complementary and necessary: the existence of “capacities” and the continual circulation of fluids within. The ambivalence of life (circulation of flows, the body functions) and of death (breakdown of the body ceases functioning) is co-substantiated with this metaphor and with the notion of “life” identified as flows within “capacities.” The philosopher Saint-Simon took Lamarck’s definition of life and used it to imagine a whole society: “The action of liquids circulating within the capacity of organized bodies is essential in the development and maintenance of the phenomenon of life.”⁵

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The “Living” City or the Text-City?

Léon Simon reported in 1832, in *Conversations avec le Père*, that the Saint

Simonian leader Enfantin made the following

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“I have conceived of a plan for a new city wi

a human form. The head is the temple of my
The summit hosts the priests; on the two sides
the scholars and industrialists; in the center
the musicians and the other artists I suppose.
The ceremonies of the temple take place here.
around the neck are the paths used by scholars
and industrialists, that lead to their respective
homes and their places of work. Within the
chest I see the academies, the academics,
the houses of learning, everything that might
be connected to development and teaching.
Here in the belly, will be the workshops for
production. Then in the thighs and legs I see
boardwalks, the Champs-Élysées and the
woods of Boulogne. The feet will correspond
to dance halls, theaters, places in which to

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In the wake of Saint-Simon, the organicist metaphors used to define the city multiplied. Urban planners spoke of “the arteries of the city,” comparing the center to the “heart of the city,” and the “lungs” of the city were its parks and green spaces. In the city’s undergrounds its guts and its sewers could be found; In *Le Ventre de Paris*, Émile Zola thus compared the central Halles of the capital, built under the Second Empire, to its stomach. The sociologist Yves Stourdzé brings us this text by Alexis Legrand, who designed the French rail network

in 1842: the railroads “carry movement and life from the center to the extremities; and these extremities, in turn, send back to the heart of the State the movement and life that they have received.”⁷ Behind this image of the networks the metaphor of the fabric of life continues to operate.

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The inflation of metaphors leads one to question the very notion of “life” itself. This strange concept has a double meaning that comes from its Greek etymological root: at the same time *zoe* that designates life in common animation, movement, and development, and

bios that defines the form of the activity and the way of life. This concept also has its own history: it can be precisely dated, developed in the context of the period between 1750 and 1850. As Georges Canguilhem has clearly shown, it was a matter of a transition between two great models of the living organism. From Aristotle to the middle of the eighteenth century, the living organism was likened to that of a machine. For Aristotle, organic finality is a specialized technical finality: the organs of animal movement are *organa* that can be compared to elements of war machines, for example the arm of a catapult that will launch a projectile. The machine is the model of the living body and the inverse is also true when it comes to automata.

This mechanistic model of an explanation of life—in which the link between the part and the whole functions like the element of a machine—

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the middle of the eighteenth century, under criticism from Buffon and Maupertuis. The issue was shifted then from the

search for a driving force that was outside of the machine (divine origin) to a force within the organism that was capable of ensuring its reproduction. Somewhere between a model which is collapsing and another that has not yet come into being, and while waiting for new paradigms, the organism was even associated with the position in which it found itself,

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in other words a transition. During this period one that Canguilhem qualified as “baroque physiology”⁸, the concept of life triumphed and would even give birth to the so-called “vitalist” school (Barthez, Bordeu, Bichat). This physiology was marked by three essential innovations: 1. The end of the “technological” model of the organism, that would free the body from its operator, in other words from God, with the body becoming self-referential; 2. The end of a “static” anatomy that required an explanation for the functioning of the organism within the invisible; and 3. The suzerainty of the visible and the view that considers the body as a language that “speaks of itself” whereby it is sufficient to simply observe it. Here are three keys to explain the success of the metaphor of the living when considering society and the city: the living is autonomous, dynamic, legible, and rational. The human body freed of its reference to the machine and its divine operator, is established as a model of rational

in itself, with no referent. It becomes “auto” or “self”: self-organized, self-reproducing, se

preserved. The same as the “living city” that reproduces and adapts. It is “self” and not merely “anti” (to be alive *versus* artifice). The living city, an autonomous entity, can in this

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Using cell theory, the relationship between the whole and the part can be considered in a new way: a part, in other words a cell, can generate a whole. The totality is contained within the seed, within the part. In

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the organism refers to the machine; in the “economic model” developed by Claude Bernard, it refers to the factory and the division of labor. Wanting people to

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the organism to a city, “a city with its own special character”⁹ where the division of labor reigns. The city/organism metaphor has become irreversible. Organic, organization and rationale are identified. In her beautiful book on the subject, philosopher

Judith-Edith Schlanger highlighted that “the thinking of the organism is generalized in logic and becomes the model and the archetype of rationality; on this point, organic and rational are synonymous.”¹⁰ In other words, the analogy between the human body and the social body leans on the idea that both are rationally analyzable wholes, that depend on identical logic. Self-referring, the living body is a model of rationality for other systems of organization, beginning with the city. After Enlightenment philosophy had naturalized the social, “baroque physiology” offered it a physiological model of explanation. From that point onward, the rationalized, medicalized body could be used to analyze any complex system, including the city. The organism was the most complex natural system, it could serve as a means of interpreting an urban system that was difficult to decipher.

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the concept of “life” has become worn out. The abuse of its metaphorical employment

has only emphasized this wearing down. In 1865, in *Introduction à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale*, Claude Bernard had already highlighted its vacuity: "Life is just a word that means ignorance". "Vital" signifies that we ignore the cause of a phenomenon: and so we speak of "a vital spark" or of the "vital force". Qualifying the city as "living" is like admitting one's inability to think. Everything pleads for the removal of this cumbersome metaphor. For these materials of the living as deciphered by Bichat, let us substitute the matter of the text in order to decipher the city.

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The “Living” City or the Text-City?

T H E C I T Y A S T E X T

Let us pursue this line of thought. It is not only the city that has changed, it is also its representations and the paradigms that serve as references. Thus, the image of the living body is constantly evolving.

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body, machine-body, hybrid-body, cyborg, etc. The contemporary model of the living has become cybernetic because the reference for the body is the computer, or an automaton. The body, provided with “software,” can be programmed, measured, calculated, and coded. So one can consider the city as a large automaton that has also been provided with software, Artificial Intelligence: and thus the *smart city* processes the mass of data collect

by sensors or provided by users. Will the “living city” be the counterpoint or antidote to the automatic city that outlines the horizon of the techno-scientific, or rather the extension of the imagination of a computer body transposed onto an urban body? Anti or auto?

The physiological paradigm also offers a model of rationality in which vision triumphs. The “living” being self-referential has no need of exterior illumination (divine) to reveal its functioning. The visible is the legible. Truth can be seen in the forms, the structures, the materials, and the organization of the body and of the “living city”: it is useless to seek an invisible order, or a hidden God, everything is here, visible, fully exposed to the light, it is enough to observe it. The anatomy of the city is sufficient. The paradox of this clinical approach to the city is “to hear a language as soon as it perceives a spectacle,” as Michel Foucault wrote. In effect, the shift is rapid if we use the equation visible=legible=enunciable. This is why the city is a language, and even a

writing (Roland Barthes), made of signs, tales and symbols. Italo Calvino says, “Cities are a collection of many things: memory, desires, of signs of a language.” Cities considered as organisms attract metaphors, like moths to a flame. They evoke the imagining of coupled

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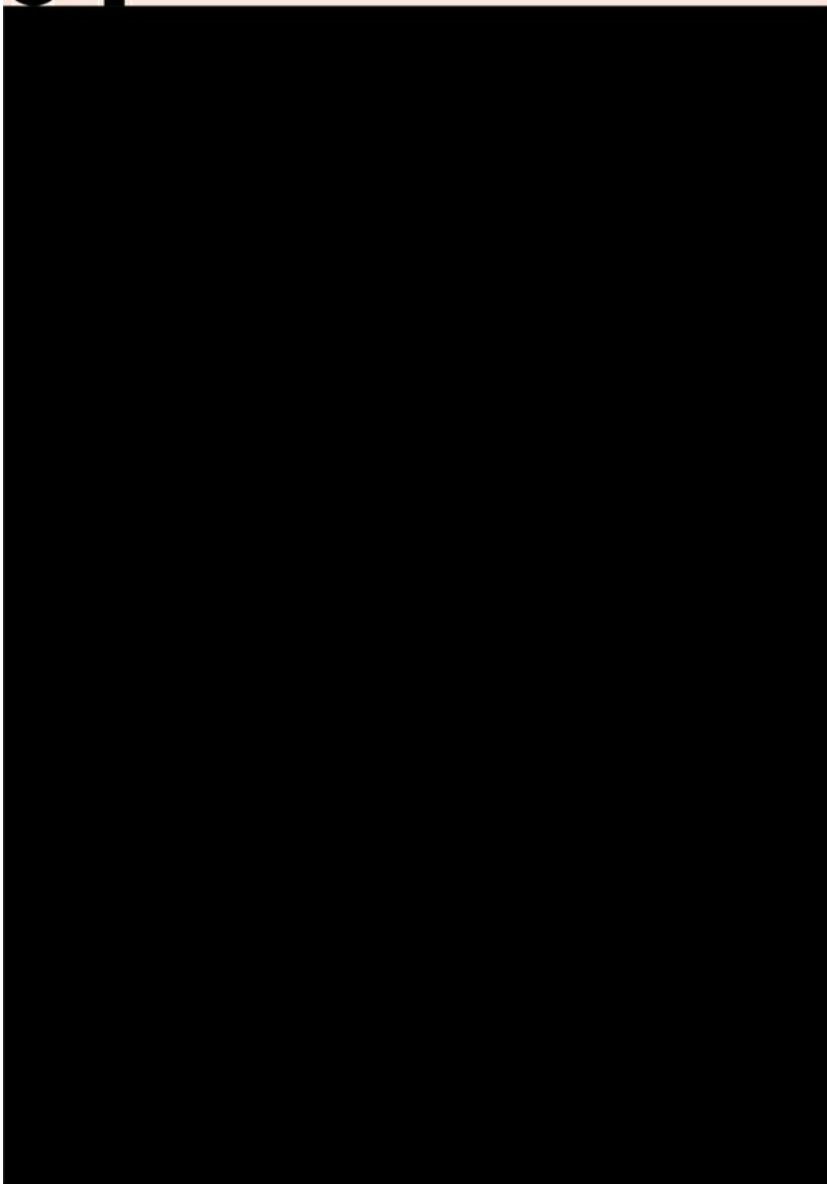
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utopia-dystopia, etc. By manipulating these
ambivalences, cities are simply stating their
power and their fragility. To interpret the city
in its infinite complexity, it would be better to
approach it as a text. Michel Butor had already
begun to do this, noting that “the first large cities
were contemporary with the invention of writing
in the true sense of the term.”¹¹ The city-text
would then be a material of signs rather than
of flows, a corpus rather than a body.

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L'enjeu est celui de la vie, dans toutes les acceptions de ce terme, à la fois biologiques et culturelles. Le vivant fournit aujourd'hui un nouveau paradigme mettant l'accent sur la question des milieux des êtres vivants, la façon dont ces milieux déterminent leurs vies et comment les êtres vivants interagissent entre eux avec les milieux. Milieux de vie, «entre», coexistences,

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chacun de ces principes conceptuels
déplace et revivifie les frontières établies

par l'homme entre lui et la nature. On peut
considérer qu'ils explicitent la dynamique
d'une architecture des milieux¹ issue de

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La pensée des milieux de vie s'avère
particulièrement féconde dans la mesure
où elle amène à considérer d'un même

tenant continuité et discontinuité. En grec ancien, comme l'a rappelé Agamben², le vivant renvoie à deux termes : celui de *zoé*, le fait de vivre, qu'il s'agisse d'animaux ou d'hommes, et celui de *bios*, forme ou façon de vivre d'un individu. Chez les modernes, la double tendance du vitalisme et de l'animisme à considérer un animal mais parce qu'il est « plein de vie ». Le vitalisme dominant, c'est-à-dire en réaction au cartésianisme, attribue des corps physiques à de l'étendue et à une énergie, et leur dynamisme après les avoir doués d'âme. Une des références fortement mobilisée par les philosophes contemporains très différents – que ce soit avec une préférence est celle du naturaliste et biologiste Uexküll, qui a analysé la façon dont le vivant animal organise son monde, comment il fait intervenir perception et conception.

temporel liant extérieur et intérieur. Uexküll a développé dans ses travaux, à savoir l'*Umwelt* comme monde de vie.



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préface p.35 et L1

Alors que le vivant se dessine chaque jour davantage comme l'horizon conceptuel de la production urbaine, la philosophe Chris Younès analyse les dynamiques d'une architecture des milieux. Biotopes comme architectures, les milieux sont le produit des interactions qui les constituent et les transforment sans cesse. La pensée des milieux permet ainsi de mettre l'accent sur « l'entre », chaque métabolisme étant à la fois auto-organisé et poreux, dans un système de relations. Elle insiste ainsi sur

la fécondité des «reliances» ville-nature comme condition d'une refondation symbolique des milieux urbains par davantage de coexistence avec la nature. Développer les capacités de résilience des milieux urbains exige de ne plus s'affranchir du milieu, à l'instar de la pensée moderne, mais de le comprendre et d'établir avec lui des alliances visant à le révéler, le ménager et le revivifier. Naissent ainsi de nouvelles façons de penser et de faire pour «renaturer» l'architecture et la ville.

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monde intérieur, mettant en évidence comment et comment chacun, même le plus sommaire. D'une façon générale, avec la notion de milieu, l'idée qu'« il n'y a pas "le" milieu, mais le milieu que l'on puisse rendre compte d'un comment et un temps que tout advient. Le milieu est rhizomique. » Guattari (« on commence toujours au milieu »). Les d'architectures, ils ne sont que le produit des processus et qui se transforment sans cesse.

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Sloterdijk met au cœur de la trilogie *Sphères*

—
dont la racine indo-européenne « mei » signifie
des propriétés d'auto-organisation des organes
d'attaque et de défense par rapport à d'autres.
En liaison avec la référence au métabolisme,

la naissance de la biosophie : « La philosophie de vie de l'ancienne Europe est indéniablement juste d'entamer son travail ; la théorie générale des systèmes communs en est à ses débuts ; une telle immersion se met timidement en marche. » Conduits à comprendre à quel point tout vivant, par un principe d'individuation, est capable de dépasser ses limites et d'entrer en relation. Caractérisé par ces échanges entre le dedans et le dehors, c'est ce que nous pourrions dire. D'une façon transversale, où l'attention est portée sur un habiter spécifique d'un milieu, c'est en termes d'« entre » qu'il peut être mis en synergie la partie individuée et le tout qui la distingue, l'espacement ou écart qui tient à distance des proximités, mais aussi les passages et ponts ainsi que leurs coexistences.

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L'enjeu majeur est de penser et imaginer les conditions de la vie sur cette Terre qui menace d'épuisement. C'est la redéfinition des reliances ville-nature œuvre d'un imaginaire et symbolique des milieux urbains. La nature désigne tout à la fois l'eau, l'air, la terre, les rythmes des saisons, des jours et des nuits, du jour et du sommeil, de la naissance et de la mort, de la vie. Elle ne relève ni du domaine des choses extérieures, ni de ce qu'il fabrique. « Elle est en nous et elle nous fait », écrit Merleau-Ponty⁸. Le mot de nature envoie d'ailleurs à la genèse réitérée, comme l'indique son étymologie (du futur de *nascere*) qui signifie « ce qui donne naissance, présage de la chose » et qui correspond en partie à la

distinguaient les êtres naturels des êtres fabriqués

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principe d'automouvement et de repos, port de devenir autre, de s'accroître ou de diminuer, métamorphoses toujours renouvelées. Henri ne procède pas par fabrication mais par genèse, grec *phùsis*. La racine *phù* signifie croître, po à la végétation. Les cultes du végétal sont toujours anciens. En Grèce, Dionysos apparaît comme d'être honoré comme le dieu spécifique de la est reconnue une force, une puissance vitale celle de l'animal. L'opposition qui est celle de le partage entre les arts méditerranéens et les animale qui se déploie en combat d'animaux suite de moments pulsionnels dramatiques. dans un unique entrelacement de vie et de mort, lutte à mort. Cette vue est déjà darwinienne. la tendance fondamentale de tout être vivant dont la stabilité est celle du cristal. Dans l'idée contraire, est toujours présente l'idée de germination, renaître plante. C'est ce schéma vie-mort-respirale néolithique, qui est l'ornement le plus Mais cette conception végétale de la nature n'est tout, à la vision de la modernité occidentale d'

venue ainsi à opposer l'homme à la nature, su-
amorcée au XVII^e siècle par Galilée, Bacon et
à l'homme, qu'il pouvait gouverner à partir d'
lois suivant un modèle mécanique des phéno-
l'entretien avec Henri Maldiney, il poursuit :
Mircea Eliade, n'est pas pour la conscience in-
un enrichissement. La végétation signifie le t-
tous les germes." Dans la peinture indienne,
rendue par leurs gestes mous, ondoyants con-
l'impression que, dans les veines des êtres m-
non du sang, qui coule". Malgré le postulat ép-
biologie-inventaire d'aujourd'hui, la vie ne s'-
un contexte animaliste [...] C'est dans la cris-
forme comme lieu de rencontre d'un organis-
turbulence. La nature vivante est un complexe
réordonnées... Aujourd'hui, ce rythme nous

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Bien que le temps de la nature et le temps de l'homme partagent le principe commun à ces deux modes de production, le *technè* (dont la racine indo-européenne « tik- » signifie « génération. Mais de quels engendrements s'agit-il ?) sont en jeu ? Il y a, explique Aristote, dans la *technè* un *metabole* (Mais il y a aussi un devenir autre de ce qui est) (metabole)¹². Désormais, il apparaît souvent

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ENTRÉS HUMAINES

L'interrogation actuelle sur les capacités résilientes des milieux urbains est particulièrement significative dans la reconfiguration des territoires et des déplacements, aux façons d'envisager l'alliance de l'homme et de la nature. Le terme de résilience appartient tout à la fois à l'écologie environnementale et de l'écologie humaine, à l'échelle du milieu ou d'une personne à se métamorphoser face aux chocs. Les dévastations des écosystèmes, la finitude de la planète Terre, de sa vulnérabilité croissante conduisent à s'interroger sur les rapports sous-jacents entre *technè* et société. Le défi consiste dès à présent à

des résiliences naturo-culturelles, comme re
par d'autres modes d'occupation de la terre. L
entre terre et mer des corridors biologiques,
que des portions congrues, en préservant les
réserves d'eau, mais aussi en inversant le mo
méditerranéen. Si être moderne, avec la Cha
la *tabula rasa* et s'affranchir du milieu, il s'ag
d'imaginer d'autres possibles à partir des rés
milieux, de leurs potentialités et des intensit
types visant à révéler, ménager, revivifier, so
compte les éléments géographiques, tectoni
biologiques, techniques et culturels. C'est ai
des milieux habités des densités raisonnées p
de forêt, de campagne, de jardins et de parcs,
création d'atmosphères vivables, et une cult
Ce sont à ces nouvelles manières de penser e
désormais requis. Renaturer l'architecture e
régénérer, hériter, économiser, diversifier, p
créer et recréer. Car les corythmes entre hur
et agriculture, entre diversités naturelles et c
cultures, constituent la matière du coexister
une façon de s'envisager au monde et de le co
« Quand je parle d'un animal, c'est simple ; sa

son lieu vital. Pour l'homme non. Entre le bio
en deçà et au-delà des deux, l'homme surgit e
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As the living increasingly emerges as the conceptual horizon of the dynamics of an architecture of environments. Whether the interactions that constitute and continuously transform

emphasize “the in-between,” with every metabolism being of relationships. In this way, it insists upon the fecundity of this condition for a symbolic reestablishment of urban environment. Developing urban environments’ capacities for resilience, as modern thinking would encourage, but rather drives us forward with the goal of revealing, managing, and revitalizing it. In this thinking and doing, in order to “renature” both architecture and

The issue is life, in all of the meanings that can be attributed to the word, both on a biological and cultural level. Today, the living provides a new paradigm that places the emphasis on the question of the environment of living beings, the way

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Thinking about living environments reveals itself to be particularly fruitful insofar as it leads us to consider continuity and discontinuity side by side. In ancient Greek, as Giorgio Agamben² reminds us, the living refers to two terms: that of *zoé*, the fact of being alive, for animals as for men, and that of *bios*, an individual's type or way of living. Among the moderns, it was Leibniz who reactivated the twin tendencies of vitalism and animism, not because for him the world is an animal but rather because it is "full of life." And this in reaction to the dominant mechanism, in other words in reaction to Cartesianism. Opposing the reduction of physical bodies to a passive energy and scope, he advocates their activeness and their dynamic nature having endowed them with action and force.³

One of the references heavily mobilized by very different contemporary philosophical currents—whether by Gilles Deleuze, Henri Maldiney, or Peter Sloterdijk—is that of the

naturalist and biologist Uexküll, one of the forerunners of ethology, who analyzed the way in which the living animal or human builds the territory⁴ and how perception and behavior are involved in establishing a spatiotemporal

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world that links the outside and the inside. Uexküll forged two concepts that are essential to his work, being the *Umwelt*, the outside world, and the *Innenwelt*, or inside world, highlighting how each inhabited environment associates them and how each of them, even the most cursory, reveals itself to be unique and multiple. In general, when it comes to the notion of environment or the center (in French both can be translated by the same word *milieu*), there is simultaneously the idea that “we cannot speak of *the* environment, or middle, but rather the environment or middle ‘of’ something,” that everything is already here, without us being aware of a beginning or an end, but at the same time being aware that everything is happening. Deleuze and Félix Guattari consider the environment to be rhizomatic, (“we begin in the middle”). When it comes to both biotopes and architectures, they are simply the product of interactions that constitute them, interactions that are

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Sloterdijk places the concept of immunology at the heart of the *Spheres* trilogy⁶—with its Indo-European root “mei” meaning to change exchange—which treats the properties of self

organization in terms of capacities for attack and defense with regard to other, possibly pathogenic, agents. In connection with the reference to metabolism, he goes as far as announcing the birth of biosophy: “Philosophy as the form of thought and life of ancient Europe is undeniably exhausted: biosophy has just begun its work; the general theory of immune systems and common systems is in its infancy; a theory of places, situations, of immersions is timidly taking its first steps.⁷” Ethology and biology have led us to understand to what extent every living thing

being an organism determined by a principle of individuation, is capable at the same time of transgressing limits and entering into contact. Characterized by its own metabolism, made of exchanges between the inside and the outside, it is a self-organized, one could say, porous system. In a transversal fashion, we could consider that once attention is focused on a specific habitat, meaning on the way of being within it or at its center, it is in terms of “between” that it can be described, in such a way that there is synergy between the individual part and the whole. This requires a limit that distinguishes, a space or gap that creates distance and separates everything while at the same time creating opportunities for proximity, but also passages and porosity between things and beings, as well as

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The major issue is to think and imagine sustainable conditions for life on this Earth to risks being exhausted. There is great benefit in redefining the links between city and nature to open up a real, imaginary, a n d s y m b o l i c r

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When we speak of nature we are speaking of water, air, earth, fire, fauna, flora, rhythms and seasons, days and nights, heart and breath, waking and sleeping, birth and death, the cycles of transformation. It does not belong to the domain of things that are outside of Man nor is it merely part of what he makes. “It is within us and it carries us within

itself,” says Maurice Merleau
Ponty.⁸ The word nature refers
first to a living nature and a
reiterated genesis, as indicated
by its latin etymology “*natura*”
(from the future participle of
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which gives birth, the fact of being born, that which foreshadows the thing” and that corresponds partly to the ancient Greek *physis*. Aristotle distinguished natural beings from manufactured ones in that they are endowed with a principle of self-movement and rest, carrying within themselves the possibility of becoming other, of growing or diminishing.⁹ They proceed through constantly renewed geneses and metamorphoses. Maldiney explains: “Nature does not proceed by manufacturing but by genesis, expressed by the root of the Greek word *phusis*. The root *phu* means to grow, flourish, thrive. It refers to vegetation. The cults of the plant have always been recorded among the most ancient. In Greece, Dionysos appeared as the divinity of the plant kingdom before being honored as the specific god of the vine and wine. Almost everywhere a force, a vital force, different and more aboriginal than that of the animal is recognized. The opposition, that of sap

and blood would later on create the sharing that occurred between Mediterranean and Germanic arts. The animal form that is featured in animal combat in Scythian goldsmithery is a sequence of impulsive, dramatic urges. Life is manifested in its paroxysm, in a unique interweaving of life and death. The struggle for life is a struggle to the death. This view is already Darwinian. The death drive represents the fundamental tendency of every living being to return to an inorganic state whose stability is that of the crystal. On the contrary, in the Mediterranean idea of nature the idea of germ is present, of a buried seed that dies to be reborn in the form of a plant. It is this pattern of

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But this organic conception
of nature barely responds, if
at all, to the vision of the

Western modernity of the

Modern Times that came to oppose Man and
nature, according to the dualist representati
established by Gallileo, Bacon and Descartes
in the seventeenth century, of a nature that is
exterior to man, that he could begin to govern
from the moment that he learned the laws
that depend on a mechanical model of the
phenomena of life. Going back to the interview
with Maldiney, he continues: “‘For the Indian
mind the organic process, says Mircea Eliade
is not impoverishment, but wealth. Plant
life signifies an overflowing, a fertility, the
blossoming of all of the seedlings.’ In Indian
painting, ‘the beatitude of the characters

is rendered through their gentle gestures, undulating like underwater creepers. We have the impression that it is plant sap that flows in the veins of these mythical beings, and not blood.' Despite the epistemological postulate that reigns in the biology-inventory of today, is not necessarily part of an animal context.. It is in crisis that the invention of a form as a place of encounter between an organism and an environment, it emerges in a turbulent phase. Living nature is a complex system of perpetually reorganizing turbulences. Today, this rhythm has escaped us. It has been veiled
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REGISTRATION SATS TAKE

Though the time of nature and the time of

techne are not the same, the principle common to these two modes of production of nature and *technè* (whose Indo-European root “tik” means to engender) is that of generation. But of what generation do we speak? What cycles and recycling are at stake? There is, explains Aristotle, a primary force in nature. But there is also a becoming other than through nature. It is the law of becoming (*metabola*).¹² Thus, it often appears that artificial environments have been substituted or have entered into competition with natural environments. It is only in the artificial, meaning “made by art”

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(*artefacere*), designating skill, know-how, and ruses, that there is the possibility of an excess, a violence, a violation, of a promethean desire that steals something from the gods, but also the possibility of imagining, of inventing symbiotic systems in co-rhythms.

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The current questioning of the resilient and regenerative capacities of urban environment is particularly significant of the crucial sites of reconfiguration of territories and movements that are carried out in relation to the ways of seeing the alliance between man and nature in its different forms. The term resilience belongs at once to the domains of environmental ecology and human ecology, because it defines the capacity of an environment or a person to change in order to overcome trauma or shock. The devastation of ecosystems and the awareness of the finite nature of the planet Earth, of its vulnerability like that of man,¹³ leads us to question the sustainable relationships to be established between

nature, *technè*, and society. The challenge now consists of imagining other possibilities through naturo-cultural resiliencies—such as rebuilding the Mediterranean coast by using the land differently—in particular by creating biological corridors between land and sea, of which urbanization has only left the bare bones, conserving arable land and water reserves, but also by reversing the movement to privatize the Mediterranean shore. If being modern, with the Charter of Athens, was to favor the *tabula rasa* and freeing oneself from the environment, it is now a question of understanding and imagining other possibilities starting with the resistance and resources of the environment, of their potentials and intensities of life.

Different types of alliances that aim to reveal, protect and revive are engaged, and this while taking into account geographical, tectonic, climatic, atmospheric, biological, technical, and cultural elements. In this way when creating inhabited environments we can imagine reasonable levels of density

that can preserve unbuilt areas of forest and countryside, with gardens and parks, but also with untamed nature, the creation of inhabitable atmospheres, and a culture of soils that ensures their fertility.¹⁴

These new ways of thinking and doing are now required of us. To renature architecture and the city is to recycle, depollute, regenerate, inherit, economize, diversify, take care, and invent, but also to create and recreate.

Because the co-rhythms between human and non-human, urban and agriculture, natural and cultural diversities, in short between nature and culture, constitute the matter of coexistence, of the habitable and of art, which is a way of considering and configuring the world. Maldiney explains: “When I speak of an animal, it is simple; its nature is its life.

And nature its vital space.

But not for man. Between the biological and the historical, or rather above and below both of them, man arises by existing.

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and the entry of Man into art
makes it so that Man recognizes
himself at the moment when,
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Architectures
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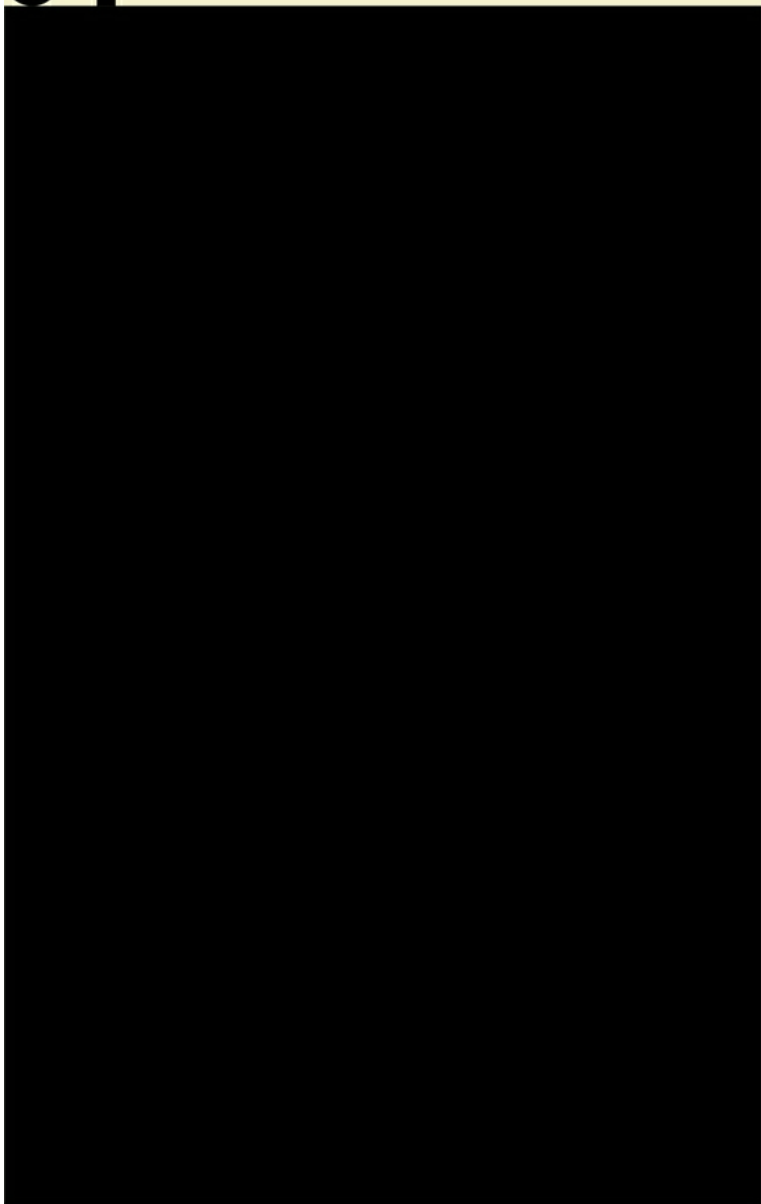
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Parmi les nombreux concepts que vous avez développés, celui de « milieu » se distingue de l'acception classique du mot.

Pourriez-vous nous expliquer cette approche du milieu et en quoi elle rompt avec le dualisme cartésien ?

« Milieu » est un terme polysémique et même paradoxal, puisqu'il peut être synonyme de « centre » ou au contraire d'« entourage ». Dans le sens où nous parlons aujourd'hui d'environnement, la mésologie s'est initialement définie comme la « partie de la biologie qui traite des rapports des

milieux et des organismes¹ ». Mais Uexküll² et à sa suite Watsuji³, ont établi une distinction capitale entre « milieu » (*umwelt*, *fûdo*) et « environnement » (*umgebung*, *kankyô*), distinction que la mésologie telle que je la professe a reprise. L'environnement est universel, il est le même pour tous les êtres, un ensemble d'écosystèmes sous le regard abstrait de la science moderne, l'écologie en l'occurrence. Au contraire, étant propre à chaque espèce vivante, à chaque culture humaine. Même si l'environnement est le même, le milieu des cultures ; c'est-à-dire que la réalité des choses ou des cultures, même s'il s'agit physiquement, s'attache à ces différences en essayant de comprendre telle ou telle espèce ou culture. Elle prend en compte de ces sujets collectifs sur l'environnement, c'est-à-dire la culture. En ce sens, la mésologie s'apparente à la phénoménologie définie comme une *phénoménologie herméneutique*.

De la « médian

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Géographe et orientaliste, Augustin Berque revient sur la dimension polysémique du terme « milieu » et explique la distinction

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ont aussi une réalité physiologique et physique. Par exemple ni les infrarouges ni les ultraviolets, les infrarouges, et celui de beaucoup d'insectes ont des réalités propres à l'espèce, au niveau biologique. En compte ces différences revient à dire que la réalité est nécessairement fonction du sujet, et que la science en fait une chose concrète. Dire cela, c'est affirmer ontologiquement et logiquement le dualisme qui a prévalu au XVII^e siècle. Elle n'est plus une science mécanique sur le dualisme sujet-objet et logiquement sur lequel une même chose ne peut être en même temps la symbolique –, autrement dit sur la binarité « sujet bien non-A (l'objet) » ; c'est une science *transcendante* se fonde sur la ternarité concrète « sujet-intellectuel » ainsi avec le déterminisme mécaniciste, parce qu'elle reconnaît nécessairement la contingence de l'histoire et du monde.

objet. En ce sens, la mésologie est également une science. L'historien Lucien Febvre avait reconnu dans la géographie humaine de Vidal de la Blache⁴. Récusant le déterminisme dans un même environnement naturel, des sociétés ont des modes de vie différents. Ontologiquement, cela signifie que la réalité est fonction du sujet, et que la science en fait une chose concrète.

objectif, ni vraiment subjectif, mais *trajectif*
les deux pôles théoriques du sujet et de l'objet

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*De la porosité entre géographie et société na
la mésologie, que vous puisez dans le Fûdo j
En quoi le terme d'écoumène se distingue-t-*

J'ai effectivement découvert la mésologie en 1935. Ce livre a été si important pour moi que j'ai donné le titre *Fûdo, le milieu humain*⁵. La géographe watsujienne, possibiliste, mais elle ne m'avait apporté ni l'écologie, ni concrètement la réalité dans un milieu humain, mais par un concept ontologique, le *fûdosei*, que j'ai défini. Je définis ce concept comme « le moment structurant » qui signifie que notre existence est comme le couplage de deux « moitiés⁶ », l'individu et son milieu, et que le milieu humain résulte de ce couplage. Or, puisque nous sommes la « moitié » de ce que nous sommes, il ne peut y avoir de milieu. C'est pourquoi, au concept watsujien de *fûdo*, j'ai ajouté le concept de trajection, processus d'où résulte la médiation entre l'individu et son milieu concret. Il en va de même pour les autres milieux de la biosphère, à ceci près que les milieux humains sont éco-techniques. Les milieux humains forment l'*écoumène*, qui se définit par la technique et le symbole, la réalité des milieux humains n'étant que les seuls écosystèmes. C'est le cas du paysage.

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matérielle de l'environnement, mais une réalité et historique apparue dans la contingence de la Chine du sud au IV^e siècle, puis à la Renaissance. Depuis lors la manière dont nous apparaît notre monde. *Vous vous êtes attaché à comprendre le rapport entre la culture japonaise entretient avec la nature. Si l'économie japonaise est-elle symbolique, la médiance est-elle l'« expérience sensible du lieu » ? En quoi influe-t-elle sur le rapport que les Japonais entretiennent avec leur environnement ?*

L'« expérience sensible du lieu », du point de vue de la philosophie occidentale, c'est la question de la réalité. La réalité est faite de choses au-delà de nous, dans la binarité du dualisme sujet-objet. Cela est vrai du monde inanimé ou du monde vivant, y compris en physique, comme l'a reconnu Heisenberg. Même là, nous ne pouvons saisir que ce que Bernard d'Espagnat a nommé « le réel nécessairement « voilé » par la relation qui donne lieu à son expérience concrètement pour nous. À cet égard, la tradition occidentale, depuis Parménide, Platon et jusqu'à l'aboutissement de la philosophie moderne, met l'accent sur l'en-soi de l'être – ce qui au XVII^e siècle a conduit d'une part le sujet moderne, de l'autre l'objet moderne, à faire concrètement exister les choses en fonction de la relation qui les fait apparaître.

pensée dite orientale, particulièrement dans l'accent sur cette relation. C'est dans cette tradition développées la compréhension et la pratique de la vie, sans distinction nette entre l'humain et le non-humain. Le monde a par exemple changé de paradigme en se rapprochant de la nature sous l'influence de la pensée du naturaliste japonais Kitaro Tanabe. Dans son ouvrage, *La Liberté dans l'évolution*⁷, dans lequel il traite de ce sujet, idée qui n'est pas du tout admise dans la philosophie occidentale, la « querelle des universaux⁸ ». L'anthologie pour le XVIII^e siècle d'« exprimer son sentiment à travers la nature » montre que les choses ne sont pas des objets neutres,

mais qu'elles sont en dehors dans l'environnement, mais sont connectées à nous, être, dans la médiance de notre milieu. On parle de *no aware*, ce que je rends par « l'émouvance », un concept, aux antipodes de la dichotomie dualiste. Les choses de notre milieu peuvent concrètement nous émouvoir et nous paraître elles-mêmes émues, c'est parce qu'elles ne sont pas neutres, qu'elles constituent la réalité trajectoire du *cogito* cartésien devant la *res extensa* – la chose étendue. Nous ne transcendons pas cette réalité trajectoire, nous participons nous-mêmes de la trajectoire de la chose pour nous. Et réciproquement, notre existence

choses de notre milieu. C'est cela, la médiane
soit un philosophe japonais, Watsuji, qui l'a c
Europe la perspective picturale – qui plaçait

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l'image – a précédé de deux siècles le dualisme dehors de la réalité objective –, au Japon l'art avant que Watsuji ne la conceptualise. C'est avec l'*engawa*, plateforme planchée qui, d'un lien trajectif entre l'espace proprement intérieur le jardin à l'extérieur. Il n'y a pas là d'opposition et le dehors, mais une transition, une trajectoire au niveau linguistique, par exemple avec le français, appelons les pronoms. En français, le « je » qui est cartésien est tout aussi transcendant que le « tu » que soit le lieu ou la circonstance, le sexe, l'âge, l'interlocuteur. Il est toujours « je », c'est-à-dire. Au contraire, dans la langue japonaise – où il n'y a pas le mot qui l'exprime est toujours circonstancié à la scène concrète de l'élocution.

Qu'est-ce que le jardin japonais et la bonzaï sur le rapport « privilégié » de l'homme au vivant ?
Parler de médiance et de trajection, ce n'est pas dire que la culture n'existerait pas au Japon. La polarité n'est que davantage une hybridité où nature et culture se mêlent. Dans un milieu humain, il y a toujours interprétation d'une certaine manière par une culture donnée.

historiquement dans ce que le bouddhisme a
certain agencement, ce que Michel Foucault
Dans la médiance, le pôle « nature » ne se mar
cet agencement, ce que l'on appelle en japon
japonais ont développé leurs propres *kata*, e
du bonsaï, qui tous deux exaltent la nature, s
kata d'un certain milieu humain : le Japon. L
par définition irréductibles à la nature propr
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Que peut signifie « modernité » dans une perspective sur l'indissociabilité des rapports homme-nature ?
La modernité, *kindai*, est considérée comme celle de l'Occident. C'est en ce sens que l'école philosophique de « dépassement de la modernité », *kindai no shinron*, se situe de l'Occident et plus particulièrement du dualisme occidental. Elle a introduit cette modernité de son propre fait, elle n'a pas été imposée, et c'est bien pour cela qu'il a pu y avoir une modernité. D'où les ambivalences et contradictions internes de la modernité contemporaine, particulièrement sous la Haïku, où le capitalisme moderne – dans la collusion

administrative – a accaparé et ravagé l'architecture, l'amour et le respect traditionnels de la nature.

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médiance nipponne ne séparait pas la nature et la ville. Pour prendre conscience de ce ravage et de ses causes, il fallut, comme quelques précurseurs, elle ne l'a vraiment fait qu'après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Le mouvement *jûmin undô*, à partir des années 1960, via les problématiques écologistes venues du Japon au début de la décennie suivante aux « quatre grands », ont donné raison aux plaignants contre la colonisation et le coup d'arrêt aux méthodes de la Haute Croissance. *À l'heure de l'urgence écologique, quelles formes d'urbanisme pouvons-nous imaginer pour réinventer l'urbanisme occidental et la culture propres ?*

La médiance est une structure existentielle unique, mais qu'elle prend concrètement ont toujours été différentes. Il n'y a donc pas de recette passe-partout dans l'architecture, mais au contraire des solutions au cas par cas. Le Japon niait la médiance, imposant à tous les milieux une forme de *van der Rohe* d'« espace universel ». Cette généralisation est dans ce qu'Henry Russell Hitchcock et Philip Johnson ont appelé les années trente *international style* : les mêmes formes pour toute la planète. La soi-disant réaction du postmodernisme est une répétition du même principe, substituant à la médiance la même chose ! » un « n'importe quoi n'importe

foutoir », le *junkspace* comme le dit Rem Koolhaas ses choux gras. L'architecte devient un être t par un geste architectural individuel qui défait que l'architecture doit monter de l'histoire e liens entre nous et les choses qui nous entour ne suffiront pas pour sortir de cet espace fout révolution ontologique et logique à la fois pou principe du tiers exclu. Rejeter simplement l tenu de l'individualisme moderne, qui est ég c'est-à-dire de la même négation de notre mé dépasser le dualisme en reconnaissant que la aussi, *ipso facto*, dépasser l'individualisme n paradigme mésologique. En architecture et e respecter l'histoire et le milieu, non pas en m anciennes, mais en en créant de nouvelles à p lieu, en poursuivant son histoire plutôt que d attitude est à l'exact opposé de l'architecture ont juxtaposé binaires et brutalement d' la momie, l'embaumement de formes ancien composition urbaine n'avait rien à voir avec c n'ont engendré que l'acosmie de l'espace fou du sens à nos villes comme à nos campagnes, l'abstraction du dualisme et revenir aux mili

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The geographer and orientalist Augustin Berque revisits the distinction made by mesology—"the area of biology that deals with organisms"—between "environment" and "milieu." The rea

species or culture, the object doesn't exist in itself but according to

Ecology goes much further than the subject object dualism of modern science. It is neither objective nor subjective, but firmly between the two. The term "mediance," meaning the dynamic coupling of the individual and the environment, is Japanese "fūdo," to which he adds "trajection," a process that moves an object into its existence in its concrete surroundings. Taken as a whole, a landscape is a biosphere through their eco-techno-symbolic dimension, which implies a respect for history and the environment, without neglecting the "mediance" of each place.

Among the many concepts you have developed, your use of the word "milieu" differs from the traditional understanding of the term. Can you explain this approach of milieus and how it diverges from Cartesian dualism?

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"Milieu" is a polysemic and even paradoxical

term which can stand for “center” or, on the contrary, for “surroundings.” In the same way as we speak of the environment today, mesology was initially defined as the “branch of biology that deals with the relationships between organisms and their milieu.”¹ Jakob von Uexküll,² and subsequently Watsuji Tetsuro,³ made a crucial distinction between the “milieu” (*Umwelt, Fûdo*) and the “environment” (*Umgebung, Kanky*) however. This is a distinction that also holds in mesology as I profess it.

The environment is universal: it is the same for all beings, a collection of ecosystems viewed from the abstract standpoint of modern science and more specifically that of ecology. On the contrary, the milieu is singular, as it is specific

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to every single living species and human culture; in other terms, the way things are differs across species and cultures, even when the objects are physically the same. Mesology focuses on these differences and seeks to understand what reality is for any one species or culture. It takes into account the perspective of each of these collective subjects on the environment, which give rise to their own specific *milieus*. In that respect, mesology is akin to

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although *milieus* also have a
physiological and physical reality. The human
eye doesn't perceive the infrared or ultraviolet
spectrum for instance, while snakes perceive
infrareds and many insects can perceive
ultraviolet light. These are realities that are
specific to a given species at a biological,
and therefore ecological, level. Taking these

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Studies in the Social and Natural Sciences (EHESS)

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differences into account is tantamount to saying that objects do not exist by themselves, that they necessarily depend on the subject, and that this relation to the subject makes them concrete things. What this means is that phenomenology overcomes the dualism that founded modern science in the seventeenth century, both ontologically and logically. It isn't a modern science anymore, a science that is both ontologically founded on the dualism between

subject and object and logically based on the principle of the excluded middle (according to which a given thing cannot simultaneously be something else, which excludes symbolicity or, in other terms, on the abstract binary logic of “either A (the subject) or not-A (the object)”; it is a *transmodern* science for which reality is founded on the concrete ternarity between the subject, the interpretation, and the object. It thus breaks with mechanistic determinism because this ternarity necessarily

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In that respect, mesology also stems from *possibilism*, which the historian Lucien Febvre had identified in Paul Vidal de la Blache's French school of h
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that the milieu is neither really
objective nor really subjective
but in fact “trajective,” that is,
concretely, in-between the two
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*Mesology, a science based on the
Japanese fûdo, emerges from the
porosity between geography and
society. How does the notion of the
ecumene differ from that of the
landscape in that context?*

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Fûdo, which was published in 1935. This book proved so important for me that I ended up translating it; I gave it the title *Fûdo, le milieu humain*⁵ [literally, *Fûdo, the Human Milieu*]. I called it Human Geography as I had learnt it was possibilistic but it had failed to give me either the ontology or the logic of what reality concretely is in a human milieu. *Fûdo*, however, aptly opens with an ontological concept, *fûdosei*, which I translated as “mediance.” Watsuji defines the concept as the “structural moment of human existence.” This means that our existence is like the dynamic coupling, or moment, of two “halves”—the individual and their milieu—that the concrete reality of a human being is the product of this coupling. Yet, given that our milieu is thus ontologically the “half” of who we are, it cannot be a pure object; it is trajective. This is why I added a concept to Watsuji’s *fûdosei* (mediance), that of trajectory: the process from which the mediance of human existence in its concrete milieu originates. The same goes for the other living species in the

various milieus of the biosphere, except that they are simply environments, while human milieus are eco-techno-symbolical. The human milieus form the ecumene, which is therefore different from the biosphere. Involving technology and symbols, the reality of the milieus of the ecumene cannot be reduced to the ecosystems alone. This is the case of the landscape, which is more than simply the material form of the environment and in fact a trajectory, eco-techno-symbolical, and historical reality that appeared in the historical contingency of a concrete milieu, that of southern China in the fourth century, and then to the Renaissance in Europe. The landscape has since become the manner in which our milieu appears to us.

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From “Mediance” to Places
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You devoted yourself to understanding the relationship between Japanese society and nature. Considering that the ecumene is eco-techno-symbolical, is mediance the “sensory experience of place”? How does it influence the relationship the Japanese have with

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From the point of view of mesology, the “sensory experience of place” is none other than reality. Reality is made of things within a ternarity, and not of objects in the binarity of subject-object dualism. This is true for any human reality or any reality from the living world, including in the field of physics, at least at the quantum level, as Heisenberg has observed. Even then, we only have empirical access to what Bernard d’Espagnat called “veiled reality.” The reality-per-se of objects is necessarily “veiled” and hidden from us by the reality that must be established so that the object can take on a concrete existence for us. In this respect, the Western metaphysical tradition, from Parmenides, Plato, all the way until the culmination of Cartesian dualism, has focused on the being-per-se—which,

in the seventeenth century became, by a process of abstraction, on the one hand the modern subject, and on the other, the modern object—rather than on the relationship that concretely brings things into existence depending on our own existence. The so-called Eastern tradition focused on this relationship instead, particularly so in Buddhist thought. The Japanese understanding and practice of reality and life, which does not clearly set apart what is human from what is non-human, developed historically in this tradition. There was a recent paradigm shift in primatology for instance as this science has been drawn closer to anthropology under the influence of the work of the Japanese naturalist Imanishi Kinji. I translated his book, *La Liberté dans l'évolution*⁶ [Shutaisei no Shinkaron, which could be translated as Subjecthood in the Evolution of Species], in which he recognizes species as subjects, an idea that isn't accepted in Western thought since the medieval debate on universals.

The poetry anthology *Manyôshû* expresses the idea of “letting things express one’s feelings”⁷ as early as the eighth century, which implies that things aren’t neutral objects, abstracted from ourselves and “out there” in the environment, but that they are rather concretely imbued with our being, in the mediance of our milieu. Later, there was talk of *mono no aware*, which I translate as “the power of things to move us” [in French, *l’émouvance des choses*]. This is a true concept, the polar opposite of the dualistic dichotomy between the subject and the object. Things in our milieu can concretely symbolize our own emotion and may themselves seem moved by emotions precisely because they are not neutral objects. They constitute the trajectory reality of our milieu. Unlike the Cartesian *cogito* faced with the *res extensa*—the “extended thing”, the corporeal object—we do not transcend this trajectory reality; it is immanent to us given that we take part in the trajectory that gives it a concrete

existence for us. And, conversely, our existence is immanent to the reality of things in our milieu. That is what mediance is all about, and it is not surprising that a Japanese philosopher Watsuji, should be the one to first conceptualize it. Just as in Europe the pictorial perspective which placed the observer's eye outside the image, had preceded Cartesian dualism, which places the subject outside of objective reality by two centuries, in Japan, art expressed this mediance long before Watsuji conceptualized it. It is the case, for example, in architecture, with the *engawa*, the timber platform that defines the trajectory connection between the truly interior spaces, those of the tatami rooms, and the garden outside. There is no dichotomic opposition between the outside

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and the inside but a transition, a trajection. The same tendency exists at the linguistic level, for instance in the way what we call pronouns operate. [In English], the “I” that expresses the self-identity of the Cartesian subject is as transcendent as the *cogito* itself and is invariable whatever the position or the circumstances, the gender, the age of the speaker or his relationship with the addressee. The “I” remains as such; in other words, the “I” transcends the environment. In Japanese however, there is no proper first-person pronoun and the word that is used to convey the first person is always circumstantial, contingent, and immanent to the concrete scene of the enunciation.

*What do Japanese gardens and
bonsaization tell us about the “special”
relationship between humankind and*

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Talking about mediance and trajectory does not mean that the polarity between nature and culture doesn't exist in Japan. The concrete polarity of mediance is not a hybridity where nature and culture are amalgamated either. Concretely, there is always some degree of interpretation of the environmental given by a given culture in a human milieu, an interpretation that is historically structured what Buddhism called *sesetsu*, that is, a certain arrangement, what Michel Foucault would

later call a “dispositive.” In mediance, the po of “nature” only manifests itself through the norms of this arrangement, something called a *kata* in Japanese. Each one of the traditional Japanese arts has developed its own *kata*, for instance the gardening arts and bonsai, which both exalt nature, *shizen*, but express according to the *kata* of a certain human milieu that of Japan. The forms of this arrangement are, by definition, irreducible to the true nature of the ecosystems by themselves. A Japanese garden is not nature *per se* any more than the ecumene is the biosphere: art is added to it and art is techno-symbolic and always imposes its own arrangement on “nature.”

What can “modernity” signify in a Japanese thought that insists on the indivisibility of the relationship between humankind and nature?

Modernity, *kindai*, is viewed as a historic import from the West. It is in this sense that the so-called philosophical school of Kyoto spoke of “overcoming modernity,” *kindai no*

choku, which is about overcoming the West and more specifically Western dualism. But Japan imported this modernity on its own terms during the Meiji era and it was not imposed on the country, which is precisely why it managed to modernize so rapidly. Here the ambivalences and internal contradictions that have transpired in its recent history, particularly during the “era of high growth,” which lasted from 1955 to 1973, when modern capitalism—in the so-called *seizaikan* collusion between big business, politicians, and the public administration—cornered and devastated the archipelago, in a glaring contradiction with the traditional love and respect for nature. Yet, it is precisely because Japanese medians did not separate nature from culture that society took so much time to become aware of this devastation and its purely human causes. Apart from a few forerunners, this only really happened with the “residents’ movement” (*jûmin undô*) in the second half of the 1960s, through the ecological issues

coming from the West. This led to the “Big Four” pollution cases in the 1970s, in which the plaintiffs won cases against the collusion of the *seizaikan*, thus putting the brakes on the methods of the era of high growth.

In this time of ecological urgency, what forms of mediance could be imagined to reinvent Western urbanism in its own distinctive sociability and

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Mediance is a universal existential structure, but the concrete forms it takes have always been specific to one milieu or another. There is therefore no catch-all recipe in the arrangement of concrete milieus but in

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From “Mediance” to Places

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fact only solutions that can be defined on a case-by-case basis. The absurdity of modern dualism denied mediation and imposed on all milieus the abstraction that Mies van der Rohe referred to as a “universal space.” This abstract geometry is embodied in what Henry Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson called in the 1930s the “International Style”: the same parallelepipeds are spread all over the world. The so-called reaction of post-modernism was nothing more than a peroration of the same principle, substituting the modernist imperative of “The same thing everywhere!” with the new motto of “Anything, anywhere!” The result is what Rem Koolhaas calls the “junkspace,” while cynically milking it for his personal gain. Architects become transcendent beings that project their ego by means of individual architectural statements that disregard urban composition when architects should in fact proceed from history and the milieu. We want to feel the connection with t

things around us. Architectural recipes won't be enough to lift us out of this junkspace. We need a revolution that is both ontological and logical to overcome dualism and the principle of the excluded middle.

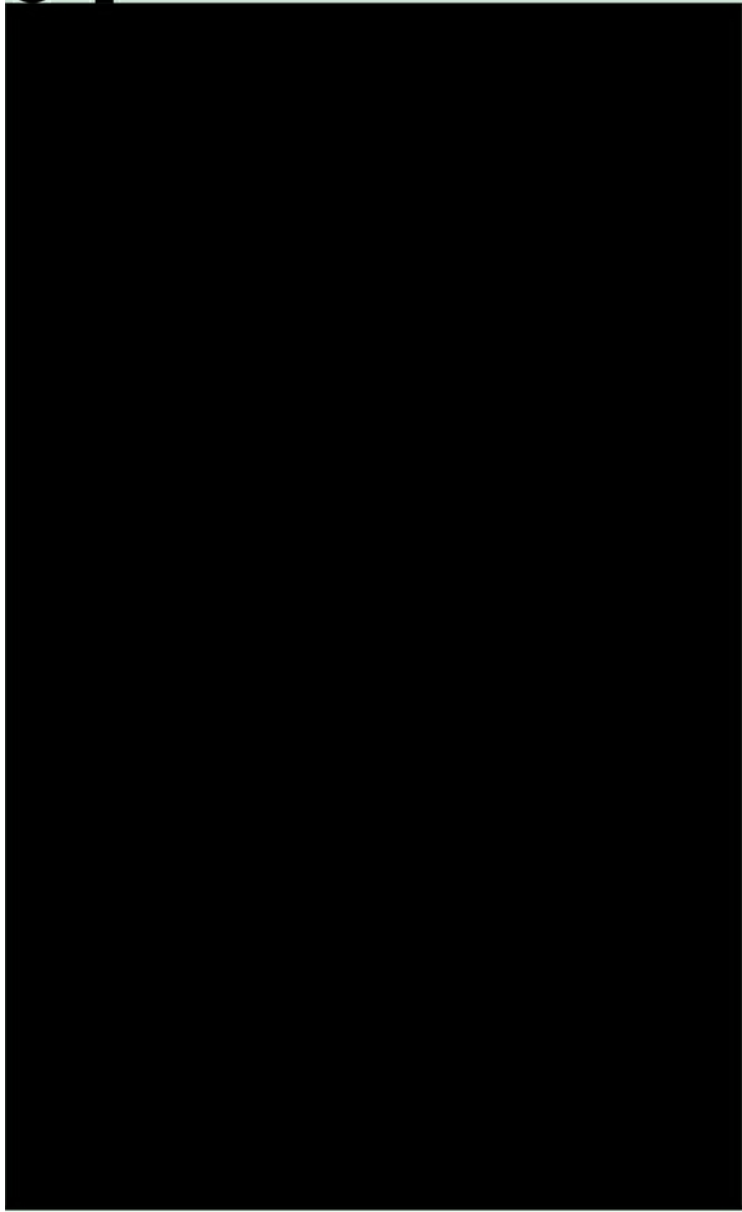
Simply rejecting dualism is impossible given modern individualism, which also originates from the Cartesian *cogito*, that is, from the same denial of our mediance; but for the same reason, overcoming dualism by recognizing that reality is always trajectory shall also, *ipso facto*, overcome modern individualism. This is what the mesological paradigm proposes. In the fields of architecture and urbanism, this means respecting history and the milieu not by slavishly mimicking past forms but by creating new ones from the mediance of each place, by pursuing its history rather than ignoring it or “deep-freezing” it. This attitude is the exact opposite of modern architecture and urbanism, which have brutally brought together in a binary logic both the *tabula rasa* and the “mummy,” that is, the embalming of

ancient forms. What used to be called urban composition had nothing to do with these kinds of juxtapositions, which have only given rise to the a-cosmism of the junkspace. To overcome this situation and to restore meaning both to our cities and our countryside we must radically eradicate the abstraction of dualism and return to concrete milieus. This calls for the recognition of the structural ternarity of reality, which is none other than the eco-techno-symbolic trajectory of our own

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Métabolismes urbains: conjuguer des approches complexes

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Depuis les années 1950, la grande accélération démographique de l'espèce humaine s'accompagne d'une profonde mutation de ses modes d'existence : la part de l'humanité vivant en ville, de 30% en 1950, devrait atteindre 66 % en 2050¹. En un siècle, nous passerions de 746 millions à 6,4 milliards d'urbains. Les mégalofoles concentrent l'essentiel de la population mondiale, des prélèvements de ressources naturelles et des rejets de déchets.

Nous ne parviendrons pas à endiguer l'empreinte écologique de l'humanité sans maîtriser l'impact environnemental de ces proliférations urbaines, Mais les outils théoriques et méthodologiques pour

parvenir à cette maîtrise sont balbutiants. Cette condition nouvelle, symptôme de l'Anthropocène, exige de s'émanciper de trois siècles de certitudes fondatrices de la Modernité occidentale, d'un rapport au monde défini par les dualités nature

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L'ensemble des champs de la connaissance

œuvre à parer aux conséquences de notre insolent développement, à battre en brèche ce modèle construit sur la place centrale de l' par un changement de paradigme : d'une con nous dirigeons vers une vision centrée sur le la notion de métabolisme urbain.

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Le premier cliché de la Terre pris par Apollo 11 de notre planète et sa singularité vivante dans l'« Atlas du Monde »² précéda de peu la publication du

Au-delà des débats autour de l'Anthropocène – datation, responsabilités... –, il ne fait pas de doute qu'il nous faut lutter contre les effets désastreux du développement humain. Prenant acte que ses conséquences s'incarnent spécifiquement dans les villes, l'architecte Philippe Chiambaretta

pointe un changement de paradigme

—

le passage d'une vision machinique du monde à une conception centrée sur le vivant – qui réactive la notion de métabolisme. Le concept de vivant permet de dépasser le dualisme et l'anthropocentrisme introduit par la modernité et pousse vers une conception symbolique et pratique de la ville comme métabolisme urbain, signe d'une approche prenant en compte le défi écologique pour « ménager » la ville. Battant en brèche l'orgueil formel de l'architecte, la figure d'un planificateur métabolique se dessine, à même de conjuguer des visions et approches complexes, notamment en dépassant les clivages classiques entre acteurs de la ville, en œuvrant à une mixité intense des usages, en ouvrant des dynamiques temporelles et en réintégrant le vivant.

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scientifiquement les impacts de l'activité humaine. Les sciences du vivant émergèrent les remises en question de la rationalité moderne. En 1974, Henri Laborit propose une « nouvelle grille »⁴ biologique pour comprendre des conduites humaines en situation sociale. Il reprend Freud de la pensée cybernétique en suivant l'idée que l'être ou d'un groupe est d'assurer sa survie⁵. La structure mais ouvert d'un point de vue thermodynamique.

se maintient par des enchaînements de régulation avec son milieu, ces derniers étant à l'origine de sa complexité. Suivant cette vision « dissipative », le prix Nobel de physique et la philosophe Isabelle Stengers proposent une nouvelle relation entre l'homme et le monde, remettant en cause la vision qui excluait l'homme du monde qu'elle étudiait. On passe à un automate à un monde qui comprend l'homme en admettant que du désordre et du flux puissent être à l'origine de l'idée que le chaos puisse être à l'origine d'un ordre. C'est la vision d'une nature en perpétuelle évolution face à l'incertitude de la connaissance. L'idée d'une réalité complexe nécessitant une nouvelle approche fait alors l'objet d'échanges fertiles entre des

divers comme Henri Laborit, Michel Rocard, dernier fera de la pensée complexe le sujet de *Méthode*⁷, invoquant la notion de « reliance » ce que la connaissance avait séparé, comparant les écoles de pensée. Il déchiffre au contraire les confrontations, complémentarités, concu-

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Ces réflexions, qui n'ont cessé de se développer, s'avèrent d'une pertinence centrale avec la philosophie environnementales. Le récit Anthropocène, de la géohistoire, nous force à repenser notre place de l'homme comme partie intégrante de Nature – construction anthropique et occupation. questions contemporaines de la philosophie. Bruno Latour voit dans l'Anthropocène la continuation depuis deux décennies : « nous n'avons jamais sujet/objet ou nature/culture n'ont jamais existé ». Gaïa de Lovelock, qui voit la planète comme un organisme s'affranchit des limites du vivant et du non-vivant. Spéculatif, né en 2007 avec Graham Harman et Jean-Louis Meillassoux, aborde la pensée d'un monde déterminé par une philosophie des choses qui les rendra sensibles. Dans la lignée de Philippe Descola, l'anthropologie, une anthropologie au-delà de l'humain, s'intéresse à la communication inter-espèces. Catherine et leur philosophie environnementale à reconsidérer.

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ne soit plus oublieuse de la nature – en prônant
avec », consistant davantage à infléchir qu'à
Le vivant construit ainsi un nouveau paradigme
contemporaine. Il incarne la figure d'une con-
perspective scientifique et imaginaire pour d-
nous sommes partie prenante. Cette notion d-
d'écosystème, de processus circulaires – plu-
dimension temporelle. La question des limites
et objets inanimés traverse également notre
monde unique – dont nous ne sommes qu'un
le droit que nous nous sommes arrogé à nous
la nature. Qu'en est-il de celui des animaux, d-
sens large ? Ce sont enfin les limites du vivant
qui sont remises en question par le développe-
de la robotique, du transhumanisme et des bi-
ainsi un prisme pour reconsidérer d'une façon
et notre condition urbaine en particulier.

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Depuis des siècles, la représentation des villes et vision organique. L'idée métabolique implique de transformation d'une ressource en déchets. La ville est née de la division des fonctions entre commerce. Elle organise des flux entrants et un système aux mécanismes interdépendants. Ontologiquement échanges et flux, corroborent la synergie entre ville et campagne subsiste jusqu'à ce que de l'agriculture rompt progressivement cette de « clivage métabolique »¹¹ la rupture entre le capitalisme et l'industrialisation de l'agriculture. Le mouvement moderne encouragea le divorce en disjoignant les fonctions de la ville pour augmenter son rendement. Elle devient superposition d'

à travailler et de couloirs de flux. Cette vision
Seconde Guerre mondiale, accélérant la rup
Marx, malgré quelques critiques pionnières c
notamment le mouvement métaboliste japon
selon une croissance organique, ou Team X r
système de grappes vivantes plutôt que com
La notion de métabolisme urbain revient auj
crise écologique imminente, les outils théori
néologisme une acception nouvelle. Elle inca
du défi écologique pour « ménager » le foncti
faire le lien entre les réflexions et pratiques d
Plusieurs formes de quantifications¹² du mét
explorées. Une première approche, inspirée

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Métabolismes urbains: conjuguer des approches complexes

consiste à analyser la croissance et la structure de ses flux de mobilité. La seconde, principale, est qualifiée d'écologie industrielle. Elle repose sur les flux matériels et énergétiques traversant la ville, et leur impact sur l'environnement. Le but est de passer d'un métabolisme urbain à l'infini ses « sortants » – à un métabolisme urbain en « entrants ». Une troisième approche, celle de l'écologie industrielle, considère les flux non comme une donnée au choix sociaux et politiques d'une ville, sous la contrainte des caractéristiques de son environnement naturel. L'action des concepteurs de la ville doit intégrer ce concept en outil pratique de développement urbain, influençant les décisions politiques. Il reste à inventer, même si des pistes se dessinent.

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ERDES APPROACHES TO COMPLEX

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La ville repensée sous son angle métabolique
barrières idéologiques de la pensée moderne
de la cellule d'habitation, du quartier et de la
fine à l'échelle planétaire. Il s'agit de travailler
par un ensemble d'approches complexes, de
et changeante, intégrant de l'ouvert.

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Le mode de production de l'urbain dans les c
selon une culture technocratique du clivage
mais aussi des pouvoirs et des acteurs. Il s'est
logique descendante allant du général au par
précédant la localisation des programmes, p
opérateurs privés et, en bout de course, la cor
Concevoir une ville vivante impose de refonc
dépasser les clivages classiques en invitant le
plaidant pour des modes de production plus c
migrier d'un modèle segmenté, descendant e

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À cet égard, de nouveaux types d'appel à projet ont remis en question la verticalité de la planification traditionnelle, au profit d'un spectacle spectaculaire propre aux concours d'architecture. Le concours Urbains Innovants *Réinventer Paris*, en 2011, a été une mise en concurrence valorisant les critères d'innovation plutôt que financiers. Constituer des équipes pluridisciplinaires mêlant architectes, urbanistes, paysagistes, promoteurs, bureaux d'études ou chercheurs renverse les logiques d'acteurs et les limites de leur zone de confort et de leurs certitudes, bouleversant les savoirs et préoccupations traditionnelles.

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La ville vivante est avant tout ville mixte. L'u

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à sectoriser spatialement nos temps de vie, fa
recherches sur la ville durable revalorisent la
aspirations des nouvelles générations. L'ubiq
favorise le décroisement de nos temps et
consommation. Le zoning fonctionnaliste la
laquelle nos différentes conditions de travail

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Dans les immeubles destinés au travail, le co-
dynamiques nées de la collaboration informelle
compétence, ce que les industries créatives ont
sérendipité. Le préfixe –co, qui revisite nos usages
faire ensemble, est le symbole de cette recherche
c'est partager des idées, des ressources et des
pour les transports et l'habitat. L'explosion de
mutabilité formelle permettent l'émergence
La mixité programmatique au sein d'un bâtiment
de travail, équipements sportifs, espaces culturels
assure à tout heure une vie attractive pour des
fonctionnelle, cette coexistence sociale est d'

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Ouvrir des dynamiques temporelles

Une approche vivante de la ville et de son tissu ouverte de ses dynamiques temporelles. Il est de préfiguration la vie d'un bâtiment avant sa renaissance. Un projet dont le programme n'est pas des espaces à inventer par une interaction entre ceux qui connaissent les services dont leur espace a besoin, une opportunité d'évolution dans le cloisonnement squelette modulable d'un bâtiment peut en être le fruit. « l'air du temps » en offrant une grande liberté. La fluctuation des populations et du marché,

l'évolution des modes de vie sculpteront son
au fil du temps.

Pensé de façon réversible à long terme, le bâti
modulable pour offrir une grande variété d'usages
de la journée. Le restaurant d'un immeuble d'habitat
en espace de travail informel, voire en salle d'exposition
dehors de son activité culinaire. L'architecture
ville et de ses usagers. Le temps comme composant
dans l'approche de la ville – ne doit plus représenter
urbaine mais permettre à l'architecte de développer
nées des usages partagés et de la co-propriété.

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Au-delà de son insertion dans un quartier, un
dans le « jardin planétaire »¹³, plaçant l'homme

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Métabolismes urbains: conjuguer des approches complexes

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de son état. Le métabolisme urbain comme
immeuble mixte – aujourd’hui imaginable en
de façon à métaboliser ses déchets et les tran
cultivés sur le toit, sur des parcelles maraîch
de ruissellement, peuvent être vendus ou tra
logique de circuits courts, et leurs déchets ré

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Ces programmes d'agriculture urbaine, très expérimentation. Nul ne sait s'ils représentent d'approvisionnement en nourriture sur des déjà une évolution du rapport du tissu urbain générale, la multiplication et la nouvelle échelle formes de végétalisation du bâti favorisent la œuvrant sur les projets architecturaux le fonc écologiques afin de mener des enquêtes sur les choix non plus esthétiques mais en lien avec Le végétal intègre ainsi très en amont les proj n'intervient plus *a posteriori* sur le geste arch raisons cosmétiques de décoration ou de diss Le vivant prend place au cœur de la concepti avec et autour de lui, permettant de nouvelle urbaine. Pour l'usager, cela représente une s de température ou de lumière, mais aussi un appel plus large à l'ensemble de ses sens. Circulaires mais ouverts, autonomes mais in des échelles emboîtées, les principes du proj ultime : l'amélioration de la qualité de vie. De bienfaits de la proximité d'un « espace vert » s d'un citoyen. Selon une étude d'impact réalis prévenir plus de 100 décès prématurés chaq

considérations, même un immeuble de bureau d'un espace ouvert, vivant et naturel. Plutôt que l'architecture métabolique propose d'hybrider et accueillir de nouvelles fonctions tout en maintenant. Les quantifications sur l'espérance de vie, le taux de fécondité sont encore balbutiantes, mais la relation à la nature urbaine est indéniable. Difficile d'estimer jusqu'où nous mènera cette évolution de la ville, mais nous devons l'explorer et rester vivants qu'elle émet déjà pour passer de l'utopie à la réalité. Conjuguer des approches complexes est une tâche et idéologies, d'accepter de se remettre en cause et de possibles ouverts, en admettant que la forme urbaine première, reste un processus dynamique. De cette confrontation rendu paradoxalement plus humble et plus accessible. À la croisée des champs, naissent des synergies à explorer dont le caractère imprévisible constitue la fascination. C'est la pratique architecturale contemporaine.

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M O D E R N E X H A U S T I O N

Since the fifties, the great demographic acceleration of the human race has been accompanied by a profound transformation of its ways of living: the percentage of humanity

living in cities, from 35 percent in 1950, should reach 75 percent in 2050.¹ In one century, we will have gone from 746 million to 6.5 billion people living in cities. Megalopolises concentrate the bulk of the world's population, extracting natural resources and pumping out waste. We will not be able to stem humanity's ecological impact if we cannot master the environmental impact of this urban proliferation. Unfortunately, the theoretical and methodological tools available to us for achieving this mastery are only in the embryonic stages of their development. This new condition—a symptom of the Anthropocene—requires that we free ourselves from three centuries of the founding certainties of Western Modernity, from a relationship with the world defined by the nature/culture, s
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dualities. All fields of knowledge are working to counter the consequences of our insolent development, to break down this model that has been built on the central position of man. To move beyond it will require a paradigm shift: from a machinist view of the world, we are moving toward a vision which is centered on the living, one that will allow us to reconsider the idea of the

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The first photograph of the Earth taken from Apollo 11 in 1969 revealed the fragility of our planet and its living singularity in the infinite cosmos.

This “advent of the World”² appeared just before the publication of the Meadows report,³ that would show the environmental impacts of human activity on the planet from a scientific point of view. The most prolific challenges to modern rationality

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Beyond the debates surrounding the Anthropocene—dating the
disastrous effects of human development on the planet is
are specifically incarnated in cities, architect Philippe Chia
mechanical vision of the world to an idea centered on the li
concept of the living allows us to go beyond the dualism an
us toward a symbolic and practical idea of the city as an urb
takes the ecological challenge into account in order to “ma

the architect, the figure of metabolic planner emerges, able to move beyond the traditional rifts between urban protagonists, to take up temporal dynamics, and by reintegrating the living.

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Urban Metabolisms: Combining Complex Approaches

have emerged from the life sciences. In 1974 Henri Laborit, basing his work on the cognitive sciences, proposed a new biological matrix⁴ as a basis for understanding human behavior in social situations. He enhanced Marx and Freud's analyses of cybernetic thinking by following the assumption that a group's *raison d'être* is to assure its own survival.⁵ The organism—a structurally closed system, but one which is open in terms of thermodynamics and information—maintains itself via a series of internal regulations and exchanges with its surroundings, with the latter being the basis

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With this “dissipative” vision in mind, in 1978 the recipient of the Nobel Prize for chemistry, Ilya Prigogine, and philosopher Isabelle Stengers proposed a “new alliance”⁶ between man and the world, challenging classical science that had up until then excluded man from the world that it studied. By shifting from nature likened to an automaton to a world that included man within itself, while also admitting that order and balance can emerge from disorder and flux, led to the idea that chaos could be the source of a new order. This outlined a vision of nature in perpetual evolution and unprecedented scientific humility in the face

of the uncertainty of knowledge.

The idea of a complex reality that requires transdisciplinary knowledge was the subject of a number of rich exchanges between figures coming from differing fields such as Henri Laborit, Michel Rocard, Michel Serres, and Edgar Morin. The last name on this list would make complex thinking the central subject of his masterpiece *La Méthode*,⁷ invoking the notion of “reliance” to characterize the need to reconnect what knowledge had separated, compartmentalized and classified into disciplines or schools of thought. On the contrary he decoded in nature a combination

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competitions, and cooperations that exist in
tight and dynamic synergy. This thinking, wh
had continued to develop since the nineteen
seventies, proved to be of prime relevance wi
the progressive preeminence of environmen
questions. The story of the
Anthropocene, that has moved
human history closer to geo

history, has forced us to rethink
our relationship with nature
and redefine man's place as an
integral part of it. The concept
itself of nature—an anthropic

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two decades: “We have never
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culture separations have never
actually existed. By adopting
Lovelock's Gaia theory, that
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on from Philippe Descola, the

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Raphaël Larrère¹⁰ call on us to reconsider technology—so that it will take nature into account—by advocating “the art of handling and of “making do with,” favoring influence

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This is how the living is building a new paradigm at the heart of contemporary thought. It embodies the figure of a complexity that provides a new scientific and imaginary

perspective to define our relationship with a world in which we are an interested participant. This notion engages the principles of metabolism of the ecosystem, of circular rather than linear processes, and the emergence of a temporal dimension. The question of the limits between humans, animals, plants, and inanimate objects is also present in current affairs. Accepting the idea of one world—of which we are one species among many—means that we must question the right that we have granted ourselves to be the masters and owners of nature. What of animals, rivers, and biodiversity in its broadest sense? It is ultimately the limits of the living as we know them that are challenged by the development of artificial intelligence, by robotics, by transhumanism and biotechnologies. Thus, the living constitutes a prism through which to reconsider our relationship with the world in a general sense, and our urban condition

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For centuries, representations of the city have alternated between a machinist vision and an organic one. The metabolic idea implies a process that is specific to the living, of the transformation of a resource into waste in order to extract vital energy. And yet the city emerged from the division of

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business. It manages incoming and outgoing flows and, with the countryside, forms a system of interdependent mechanisms. Emerging from separation, on an ontological level the city is exchanges and flows, and this supports the use of the metabolic metaphor. This synergy between city and countryside lasted until the nineteenth century, but industrialization and agricultural mechanization broke progressively with this complementary relationship. Marx coined the term “metabolic rift”¹¹ to describe the rupture between humanity and nature brought on by capitalism and the

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The Modern movement encouraged a split from this vision based on the ecosystem, by disconnecting the functions of the city so as to technify its metabolism and optimize its performance. It became a layer of cells to fill, of machines to work, and of flow corridors. The machinist vision triumphed in the wake of the Second World War, accelerating the rupture with the natural world that Marx had criticized in spite of a few pioneering criticisms of modern technicist rationalism, notably the Japanese Metabolist movement which advocated modern cities that depended on organic growth, or Team X who reimagined accommodation as a system of living clusters rather than a collection of “machines for living.”

The notion of urban metabolism is returning to us now in the context of an imminent ecological crisis, with theoretical and technological tools providing this neologism with new meaning.

now embodies a consideration of the ecological challenge so as to “manage” urban functioning but also to create a link between the thinking and practices of city developers.

A number of forms of measurement¹² of the urban metabolism have been explored in this way. A first approach, inspired by the sociology of the Chicago school, consists of analyzing the growth and the structure of a city in line with the organization of its flows and mobility. The second, principally quantitative in nature, could be qualified as industrial ecology. It is based on a measurement of the

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Urban Metabolisms:Combining ComplexApproaches

flows of material and energy through the city in such a way as to be able to manage their environmental impact. The goal is to move from a linear metabolism—which endlessly rejects its “outgoings”—to a circular metabolism that recycles its “outgoings” into “incomings.” A third approach, that of urban political ecology, considers the flows not as an autonomous given but as determined by the social and political choices of a city, under the constraints of its needs and the characteristics of its natural and

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The activity of city designers must integrate the whole range of these visions in order to transform the urban metabolism according to a desirable scenario. How can this concept be translated into a practical tool for development? The figure of a metabolic planner influencing political decisions on different territorial scales is yet to be invented, even though some possible paths are in the process of emerging.

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The city reimagined from a metabolic point of view hinges on the overthrowing of ideological barriers of modern thought and should be viewed on the scale of the residential unit, the neighborhood, and the city to that of the territory and *in fine* on a planetary scale. It is a question of working on the transcalar urban metabolism via a group of complex approaches of producing a city of the living, diverse and changing, integrating and open.

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Methods of urban production in Western cultures developed according to a technocratic culture of the rift: separating knowledge and expertise, but also power and participants. They were also founded on a descending logic that moved from the general to the particular: spatial planning preceded the localization of programs, followed by their detailed definition by private operators and then, in the end, their design by prime contractors. Designing a living city requires reestablishing these procedures and practices, moving beyond traditional divides by inviting participants to move outside of their roles and by advocating more open and thoughtful modes of production. The idea is to move from a model which is segmented, descending, and linear toward one which is transversal, ascending, and circular.

With this in mind, new types of project tenders break with the vertical nature of traditional planning, but also with the spectacular formalism specific to architectural competition. Similar to the *Réinventer Paris* call for innovative urban development projects in 2015, this dynamic comes via a competitive process that places the criteria of innovation on the same level as financial criteria. Putting together multi-disciplinary teams that bring together architects, city planners, landscape real estate developers, engineers, start-ups, artists, associations, and researchers turns the logic usually used by participants on its head, and encourages them to move outside of their comfort zones and their certainties, revealing synergies by connecting knowledge and concerns that are usually disassociated.

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The living city is first and foremost a diverse one. Modern urban planning has been working to spatially segment our private and working lives, favoring urban spread. Research on the sustainable city enhances density and diversity in line with the aspirations of new generations. The ubiquity that has been rendered possible by technology favors the decompartmentalization of the times and spaces of our lives between work, leisure, and consumption.

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In buildings that are intended for work, the concept of co-working reveals dynamics that emerge from the informal collaboration between different fields of competence, that the creative industries have theorized under the notion of *serendipity*. The prefix -co that revisits our practices around the idea of sharing and doing together, is the symbol of this search for synergy. To work in a group is to share ideas, resources, and experiences. The same goes for transportation and housing. The explosion of mono-functional logics and formal mutability allows the emergence of unprecedented and fertile coexistences. The programmatic diversity at the heart of a building that mixes accommodation, workspaces, sports facilities, cultural and commercial spaces, and services ensures an attractive life for various different audiences at all times. This functional complexity and social coexistence becomes all the more fruitful as it opens itself up to the

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Opening up temporal dynamics

A living approach to the city and the fabric of its buildings takes place via an open conception of its temporal dynamics. It is essential to use preparatory strategies to predict the life of a building long before it emerges or reemerges. A project whose program has not been completely set in stone provides spaces for invention through interactions between the future use and inhabitants, who know all too well the services that their space is lacking. By offering

the possibility for evolution in the organization of internal spaces, the modular skeleton of a building can then adapt itself to its inhabitants and to the spirit of the times by offering a large amount of freedom in the reversibility of its use. Fluctuation in the population and the market, the growth of companies, and evolving lifestyles will carve out its anatomy by transforming it over time.

Considered so as to be reversible over the long term, the building has become sufficiently modular to be in a position to provide a large range of uses in the short term, depending on the time of day. A restaurant in an office building can in this way be transformed into an informal

workspace, even into a room for projections and presentations outside of its culinary activity. The architecture adapts itself to different times of the city and its users. Time as a component of the living—something that has been overlooked in the approach that has been taken to the city until now—must not become a limit for urban design but rather allow architecture to shape synergies emerging from shared use and the

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Beyond its establishment in a neighborhood an architectural project must be founded on the idea of a “planetary garden,”¹³ placing man at its core and being responsible for his state. The urban metabolism begins on the scale of the building. A diverse building

which today can be imagined as a wooden structure—can be designed in such a way as to metabolize its waste, transforming it into a resource. Vegetables grown on the roof, on marshland plots fed by runoff water, can be sold or transformed on site according to local distribution networks, and their reused waste could be used to enrich the cultures once it

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These urban agriculture programs, currently quite fashionable, are still at the experimental stage. No-one knows in the long run whether they will represent concrete solutions for local food supply chains, but they already embody an evolution in the urban fabric's relationship with nature and the living. In general, the multiplication and new—much larger—scale of the forms of revegetation of structures favor

global biodiversity. Landscapers involved in architectural projects now work in collaboration with ecologists so as to explore indigenous species and make choices that are not aesthetic but connected to the richness of the

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Urban Metabolisms:Combining ComplexApproaches

In this way plant life is integrated into architectural projects very early on. The landscaper no longer intervenes retrospectively in the existing architectural gesture, for the cosmetic purposes of decoration or to hide technical elements. The living occupies a complete place within architectural design, defined with and around it, allowing new natural continuities to exist on an urban scale. For the user, this represents a source of comfort, in visual terms, of temperature and of light, but also a relationship with the built that comes via a much wider appeal to the full range of its senses. Circular, yet open, autonomous yet interdependent, catalysts on interwoven scales, the principles of the urban project should carry an ultimate objective: the improvement of quality of life. Numerous studies point out the benefits of the proximity of a “green space” for the physical and mental health of those living in the city. According to an impact study done in Barcelona,¹⁴ this could prevent over

100 premature deaths each year. Taking these considerations into account, even an office building can be designed as the basis for an open, vital, and natural space. Rather than occupying the spaces of the city, metabolic architecture proposes a hybrid of spatial typologies in order to host new functions while at the same time maintaining urban respiration. Measurements of life expectancy, cognitive functioning, or fertility rates are still in their infancy, but the importance of reconsidering our relationship with urban nature is undeniable.

It is difficult to predict where this metabolic and open vision of the city will lead us, but we should also explore and pay attention to all of the living signals that it is already emitting so as to move from an urban utopia to a concrete creation. Combining complex approaches is a way for us to rid ourselves of our prejudices and ideologies, to accept challenging them, to create the conditions for open possibilities, admitting that the architectural form, all too often primary, remains a dynamic process.

This position, one of an architect rendered paradoxically humbler and more attentive through their crucial role at this intersection of fields, gives rise to synergies on the scale of an urban metabolism whose unpredictable character constitutes the most thrilling aspect of contemporary architectural practice.

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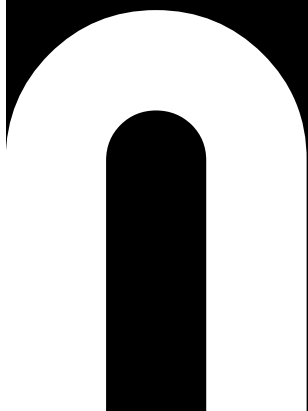
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Creating with and for the living while having to
act upon it is a paradox of our contemporary

condition, one that has precedence in art. We must develop methods of interacting with the living to guide it without restraining it, give it a lasting frame without dominating it, create hybridizations such as those seen in Artificial Life art. While observing the Upper Amazonian Runa, Eduardo Kohn noticed the creation of intimate conversations between objects and beings that prefigured, for example, new relationships that are beyond language. But above all, artists are the ones at the forefront of this upheaval of imagination: Ariane Michel, using cinematographic tools and the implications of the living, offers an immersive embodiment of the world's deanthropization that decenters our points of view, while Michel Blazy observes and researches the living to encourage its development according to self-generated forms. He thus renews the idea of "domestication" by separating it from exploitation. The living artwork shakes up artistic practices and how art is shown. For curator Laurent Le Bon, it questions its symbolic representations through the

exhibition, changing around the inert aspect of museums by recreating artificial spaces within them, for Olafur Eliasson. With its traditional focus on the representation of mankind since the Renaissance, art history is slowly revealing its flaws, proving itself to not be so steeped in its humanist certainties. Thomas Schlessner posits that the most interesting artists are those that intuitively offer “alter-navel-gazing” visions of the world. For Timur Si Qin, these artists think beyond modern dualistic ontology and develop a particular understanding of their materials, creating with them a relationship based on a negotiation between the artist’s priorities and the tendencies of the material itself, be it concrete or conceptual. For Loris Gréaud, the work of art is thus separated from the production of objects to become a trajectory through spatial experiences. The myth of “vivification” is a constant in human cultures, but art has now left imitation and representation to delve into simulation

starting in the 1960s and 1970s with the advent of information technology—and its direct manipulation through wetware, as identified by Jens Hauser, thanks to the evolution of synthetic biology and life technologies. Contemporary art has been pioneering a vision of the world not centered on human beings and is thus very much advanced in the use of technology to establish new symbiotic relationships between the living and the non-living, as explored by David Edwards at Le Laboratoire, a space for the creation and melding of art and science. The new frontiers lie in the creation of artificial life, as practiced by the duo Haru Ji and Graham Wakefield who have been digitally generating interactive ecosystems, creating an “artificial nature” that, in a dialogue between programming and organic growth, blends sensorial reminiscence of the living and anticipation of our digital lives. Contemporary art acts as a model for new dialectics and emerging relationships between implication, creation, manipulation, domestication, or

symbiosis with the living.

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Concevoir avec et pour le vivant tout en devant
notre condition contemporaine dont nous ret
Nous devons trouver des modalités d'interact
l'enfermer, lui donner un cadre durable sans le
des créations de l'*artificial life art*. La création
êtres et les choses qu'Eduardo Kohn observe
nouveaux rapports au-delà du langage. Mais l
bouleversement de nos imaginaires: avec les
Ariane Michel incarne de façon immersive une
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de « domestication » en la détachant de l'expl
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Laurent Le Bon ses représentations symboliq
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Traditionnellement centrée sur la figure de l'homme, l'histoire de l'art découvre peu à peu ses failles, se révèle humaine et humaniste. Thomas Schlessier invite ainsi à considérer que les intéressants proposent intuitivement des visions qui dépassent naturellement les dualismes ontologiques marqués par une connaissance particulière de la matière, d'une négociation entre les priorités de l'artiste et les exigences du concret ou conceptuel. Pour Loris Gréaud, l'œuvre fait une trajectoire entre des expériences spatiales et temporelles. Si le mythe de la «vivification» est un invariant de l'imitation et représentation à la simulation – comme dans les années 1960-70 –, et aujourd'hui à sa manière, l'identifie Jens Hauser, grâce aux évolutions du vivant. Pionnier dans le développement de l'art contemporain est ainsi en avance dans les nouvelles relations symbiotiques entre le vivant et le non-vivant. Edwards avec Le Laboratoire, lieu de création et de réflexion. La frontière est désormais la création de vies artificielles.

**Graham Wakefield qui génère numériquement
« natures artificielles » qui mêlent réminiscences
nos vies numériques, dans un dialogue entre l'art et la science.
L'art contemporain forme le modèle de nouvelles pratiques
implication, création, manipulation, domestication.**

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Esthétiques de la contingence :
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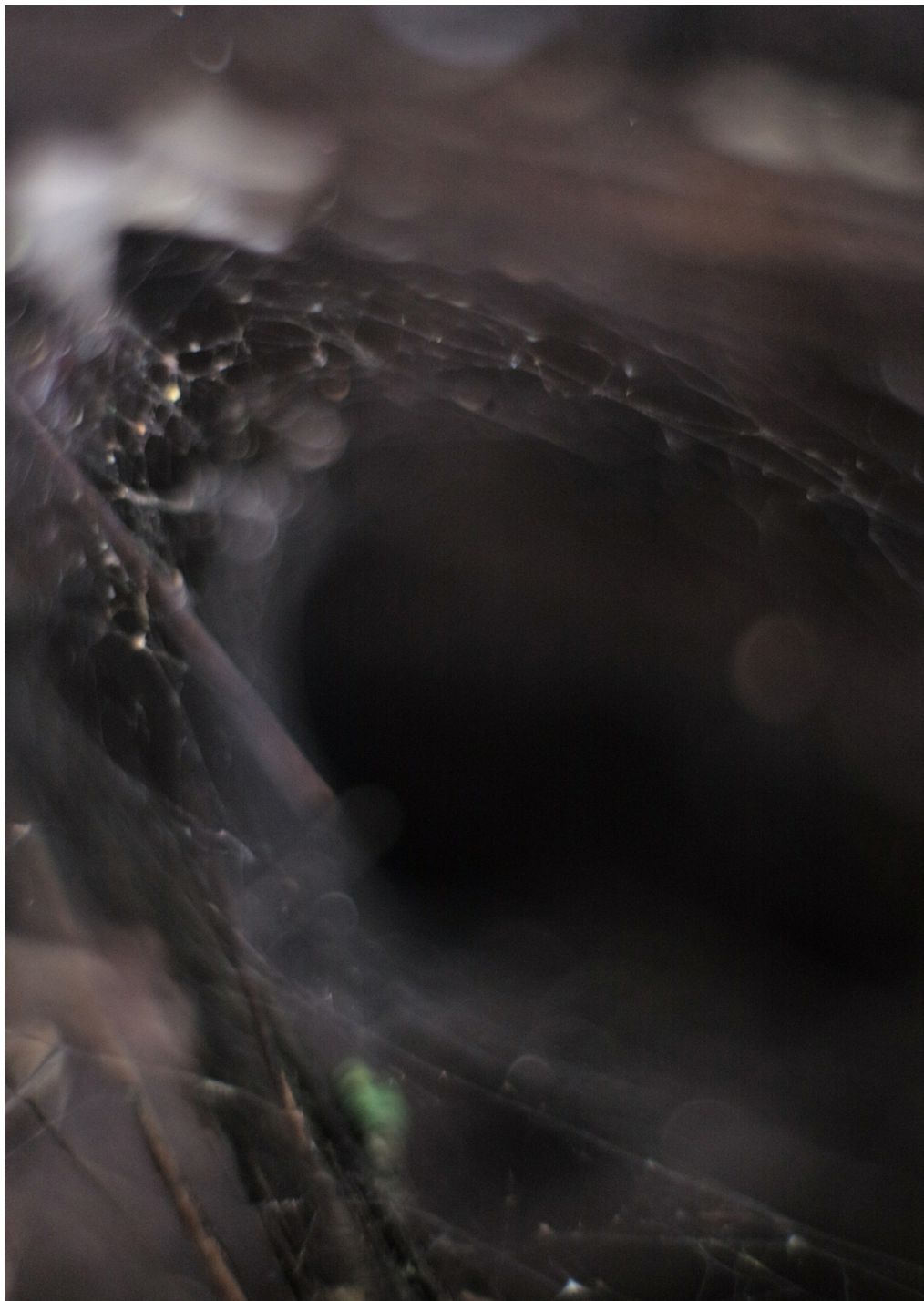
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Comment pensent les forêts
, vous abordez le concept de « pen

sée vivante », selon lequel la pensée existerait a
langage. Pourriez-vous nous décrire cette form

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La pensée que je nomme « sylvestre » est une forme pas qu'aux êtres humains mais que nous partageons. J'ai débuté mon travail en Amazonie en appréhendant la forêt comme une réalité ethnographique et biologique. À l'occasion des conséquences de cette observation sur le plan de la crise écologique, je m'attelle désormais à légitimer cette façon à ce qu'elle devienne une orientation éthique. En Occident, notre erreur métaphysique a été de réduire la pensée en une seule et même, la pensée humaine. Mais sur cette forme de pensée particulière, nous éludons ce qui ne correspond pas à la pensée humaine dans la forêt. Cette exclusion conduit au dualisme.

La généralisation d'une telle séparation entre l'humain et le non-humain est problématique. Je prétends pour ma part que, bien que nous soyons effectivement différents – en grande partie parce que nous sommes humains – cette différence ne doit pas masquer l'existence d'une différence fondamentale. Pour le philosophe Charles Peirce, il s'agit d'un monisme plus global. Cela prend tout son sens si l'on considère que les êtres vivants sont très différents des machines : au lieu d'être le résultat de l'assemblage d'un grand nombre de pièces distinctes, ils sont « un » dès leur commencement et le restent, le tout continuant de créer finalement que des « parties ». Les pensées sont donc conçues comme des ensembles. Dans

Comment pensent les forêts
, je cherche à suivre les
connexions plutôt qu'à dresser la liste des différe

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Vous écrivez que « la vie et la pensée sont une s
les pensées sont vivantes ». Qu'entendez-vous ?

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L'une de mes stratégies consiste à prendre des ch
comme complètement différentes et de montrer q

continuité entre celles-ci. À un niveau très élémentaire, le premier « soi »

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et la première pensée sont la même chose.
La vie est fondamentalement un processus de signification ; et la personne à travers lequel quelque chose ou quelqu'un d'une manière
représente quelque chose ou quelqu'un d'une manière
processus de signification ; et la personne à travers lequel
. C'est cette dynamique que j'appelle

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, et tous ceux qui s'y livrent
sont vivants. En affirmant cette position «élargie
de la communication – le fait de savoir si elle a lieu

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des phéromones ou des
cris – qu'à l'idée générale que lorsqu'un organisme
d'une façon particulière pour la génération qui le
forme des cils d'une paramécie

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représente par exemple quelque chose au sujet

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suivant le choix fait par Grégory Delaplace, qui a traduit l'ouvrage
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N.D.E. Organisme eucaryote unicellulaire.



149

Au-delà

du

langage

Eduardo

Kohn



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stream

[Création]

Monocoque

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de l'eau à travers de laquelle l'organisme se meut
informations, formant une pensée transmissible
ce niveau primaire que la pensée et la vie sont la m
reposent les formes plus complexes de communic

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Diriez-vous que la forêt est habitée par des soi

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Je dirais que la forêt est habitée par des sois, mais
sois relèvent d'un niveau supérieur à celui de l'ind
supérieur peuvent avoir des propriétés émergent

elle un soi? Où commence et où finit une forêt? D'
est le plus grand soi émergent que l'on puisse trou
pas de certitude à ce sujet. Je pense que la forêt co
appartenant à un ordre plus vaste que les individu
eux présentent des propriétés émergentes que je
d'«esprits». Comprendre quelle forme de réalité
est devenu l'un de mes intérêts majeurs. S'agit-il d

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Vous utilisez la sémiotique pour démontrer qu'
spécifiquement humains, base sur laquelle vous

delà de l'humain». Pourriez-vous donner quel
les Runa – peuple d'Amazonie équatorienne – n'
d'autres entités vivantes «au-delà du langage»

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Permettez-moi de débiter avec le signe le plus « h
Contrairement aux signes qui sont des éléments a
les symboles réfèrent d'une manière indirecte, se
Un symbole fait référence à quelque chose dans le
directement vers lui, mais en pointant d'abord vers
d'un système de symboles. Cela crée une forme de
puissante, autorisant l'abstraction et nous permet
penser à des choses qui n'existent pas vraiment. I
dans le monde de la pensée humaine.

La plus grande contribution théorique de l'anthr
analyse des modes de pensée humains reposant s
tels que la culture, le fait social, les régimes discu
sociale sont ainsi les produits d'une pensée conce
de symboles. Mais on ne peut s'en tenir qu'aux syn
difficile l'accès et la compréhension de tout ce qui

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L'anthropologie est davantage qu'un ensemble d'outils
en œuvre une méthode très puissante – l'ethnographie –
point de vue théorique. Par ethnographie, nous réalisons une
immersion intense dans un mode de vie, accompagnée
d'une façon de transmettre quelque chose de cette expérience
un impact maximum sur nos propres concepts. N

les immersions anthropologiques comme des plo
exclusivement humains, mais il se trouve que j'ai t
endroit où les gens vivent dans la plus grande inti
d'êtres, et pas seulement humains. Ils restent très
sûr, mais vivent dans un écosystème particulière
doivent être en mesure de comprendre. Ils utilisent
milieu pour s'alimenter – par la chasse, la cueillet
qui les force à devenir très réceptifs à ce monde de
cela, ils ont été amenés à comprendre les relation
monde comme des relations de communication.
Mon immersion ethnographique m'a permis de c
partie des actions menées par les Runa consistait
de ce monde-là ou bien à communiquer comme eu
ce qui se passe lorsque les Runa entendent un cert

et notamment a en connaître leur interprétation.
de s'asseoir et de poser des questions, mais d'entr
gestes quotidiens : lorsque des oiseaux nous surv
observais la réaction des Runa, cherchant à comp
faisaient. Tout le monde n'interprétant pas ces ap
se répercutait dans leur propos, ce que je pouvais
L'archétype même du symbole est le mot, tel qu'il
humain. Mais le dialecte quichua que parle le peu
d'intéressant qu'il possède toute une classe lexic
symboles à proprement parler et qui met en jeu un
de l'ordre de l'imitatif. Plutôt que de chercher à sa
ces mots reflètent ce qu'Anna Tsing qualifierait d
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d'«événements». Ils simulent la qualité particulière
lieu dans la forêt en les dépeignant sous la forme d'
m'exprimer ainsi. Il existe donc en quichua des «noms»
sonores – tels que

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imite celui d'une machette, ou encore
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, faisant allusion au tir d'un fusil de
chasse. De par leur « ressemblance » aux choses qui
possèdent une réelle signification, bien qu'ils se s
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, c'est comme si de la grenaille partait de l'intérieur
d'un fusil de chasse et sortait de la « bouche » de l'a
quichua saisit une « ressemblance » de la forêt en
constituant eux-mêmes une « ressemblance » du t
forêt, incarnant l'image de la pensée sylvestre.

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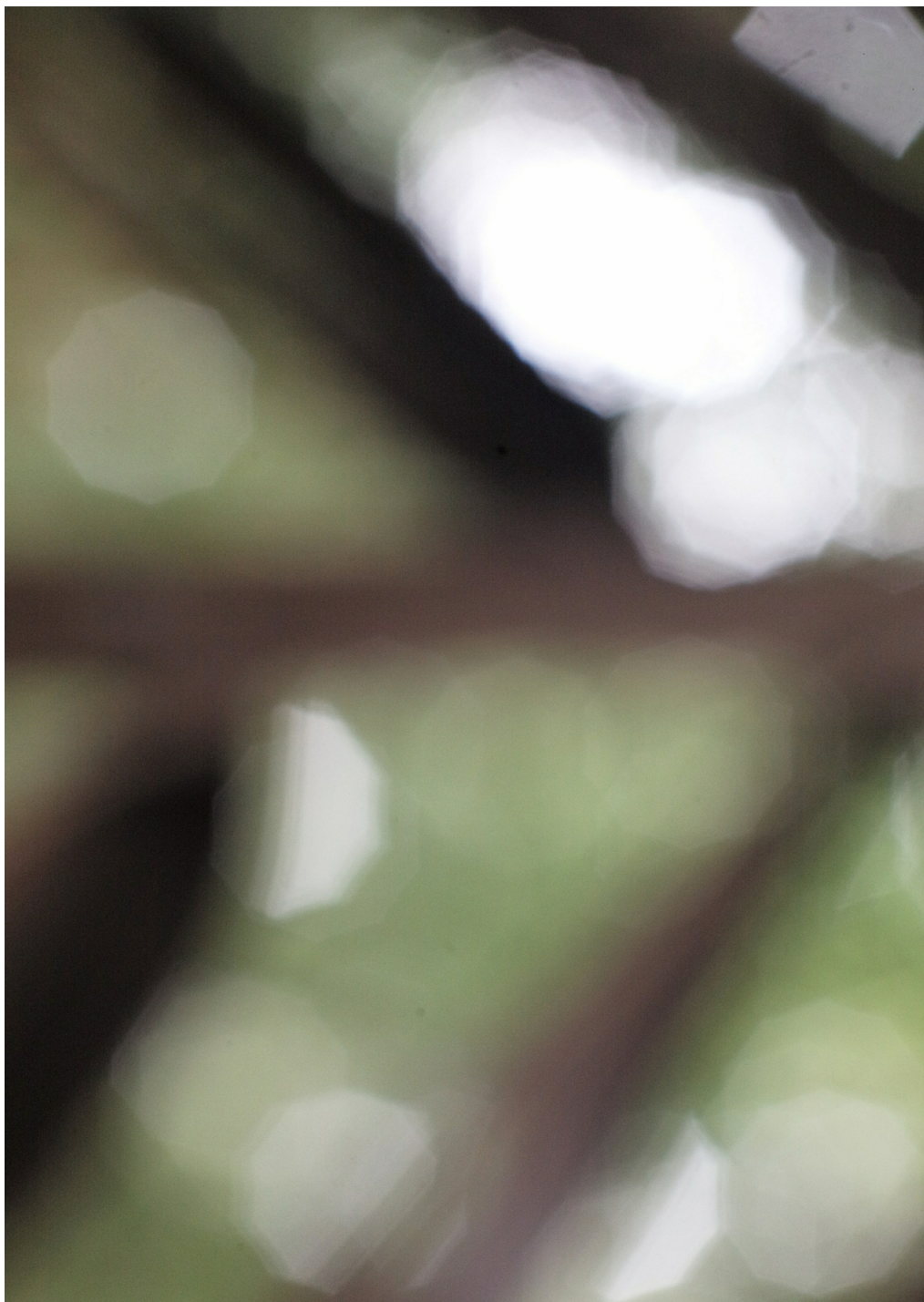
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Dans quelle mesure la communication avec les forestier interconnecté est-elle fondamentale lorsqu'ils perdent cette communication avec le

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Nous sommes toujours ancrés dans la pensée syl nous possédons tous et qui est si merveilleusement denses comme celles de l'Amazonie. Nous sommes nous sommes des êtres vivants. On ne peut donc p sylvestre, mais ce que l'on peut en revanche perdre

ce sont les espaces où la pensée sylvestre prospère



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Monocoque

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,

2007

Au-delà

du

langage

Eduardo

Kohn

Dans les forêts denses comme celle de la région au
la pensée sylvestre se déploie à un degré tel et avec
propriétés deviennent incontournables. Dans un
autrement que de penser comme une forêt, et cela
à une époque où nous perdons le sens de cette pensée
devenons des esprits « trop humains », séparés de
de considérer comme autre chose que de la simple
folie de notre monde. Cette séparation cartésienne
correcte ni soutenable, c'est pourquoi nous devons
des orientations éthiques pour dépasser l'Anthro

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Vous voulez dire que l'époque exige que nous rompi-
ons l'« enchantée » que le monothéisme a rompue ?

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Je voudrais revenir sur quelque chose de curieux à propos
d'Anthropocène, qui est si critiquée et encore non définie
ère géologique se définissant sur la base de signes géologiques
si elle laisse une trace géologique. C'est méthodologique
particulièrement révélateur en termes de vivant, mais
plutôt un diagnostic ou une critique : il attire l'attention sur
« culture » humaine est désormais en train de devenir un lieu
pour reprendre la formulation de Bruno Latour.
Je ne vois pas l'Anthropocène comme un lieu dans

critique d'une façon d'être et de ses effets. Donna
avec le curieux terme de

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. En utilisant l'image de la géologie,
l'Anthropocène nous force à penser le passé, le fu
de différentes façons, ce qui me paraît très utile. E
pensée sylvestre peut ainsi se révéler d'une grand
choses au sujet du temps et de la façon dont les fut
les uns aux autres.

Que nous nous séparions du reste du monde a des

c'est un fait ontologique, et l'Anthropocène nous conduit à l'extrême des écosystèmes pour notre profit exorbitant, dans des mondes où nous n'avons même pas besoin de communiquer, où nous sommes complètement déconnectés de toute réalité écologique de nos actions, cela pose un problème éthique. Si, à l'adéquat, nous pourrions réaliser que nous ne sommes pas seuls dans le monde, mais le clivage est de plus en plus marqué.

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Il me paraît essentiel d'insister sur les propriétés

car ils créent des séparations. Ce n'est pas une erreur.
Bien sûr, les symboles ne sont jamais complètement
ils sont issus et auxquels ils se réfèrent, raison pour
de poursuivre les recherches théoriques sur la séparation
conceptuel sur les connexions. »

3.

N.D.E.:

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«Cthulhu»,

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monstrueuse,

mi-homme,

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pieuvre, imaginée par Howard Phillips Lovecraft.

Nous devons avoir conscience des connexions et
Le danger que fait courir une «ontologie plate» e
humains et les non-humains sur le même plan. Si
est pareil, alors comment explorer et potentialise

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L'exploration ontologique à laquelle je m'emploie
«comment» les forêts pensent, est un outil puiss
et limité. Comme tout anthropologue, je me situe
avec les autochtones avec lesquels je travaille, ca
parfaitement impossible que les pierres puissent
pierres sont bel et bien vivantes pour les Runa, et c
substances psychédéliques avec eux – notammen

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, je saisis alors

le côté animé des pierres. C'est une tension avec la

Je ne souhaite pas esquiver le travail conceptuel p

de mener avec la pensée sylvestre, mais je ne suis

pourrait fermer la porte à certaines possibilités.

sylvestre finira par me suggérer le concept émerg

faire sens de tout cela.

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Comment poursuivez-vous ce travail sur la per

Je travaille actuellement avec des communautés
là où il n'y a pas de routes, dans des lieux qui ne so
ou en pirogue. Les gens y entretiennent des liens t
en étant bien au fait des réalités du monde et impl
très sophistiquée. En utilisant les propriétés de la
à la forêt de penser à travers eux. Ils sont en train
politique basée sur ce que la forêt leur dit, et je tra
Je suis également en train de réaliser un film avec
comme moi l'anthropologie à McGill. Le film est
ayons de la pensée en images, de la pensée sylvest





the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1998, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of women in its workforce. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were women, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

Another reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are full-time. In 1998, 68% of the public sector workforce were employed full-time, compared with 58% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are essential to the functioning of the state, such as those in the health and education sectors.

A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well-paid. In 1998, the average salary of a public sector employee was £20,000, compared with £15,000 in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are in the higher grades of the public sector pay scale, such as those in the senior management and professional grades.

There are a number of other reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are secure. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were employed on permanent contracts, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are essential to the functioning of the state, such as those in the health and education sectors.

Another reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are flexible. In 1998, 12% of the public sector workforce were employed on flexible contracts, compared with 2% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are in the lower grades of the public sector pay scale, such as those in the clerical and support grades.

A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well-located. In 1998, 68% of the public sector workforce were employed in the London region, compared with 58% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are in the central London area, such as those in the government and public administration sectors.

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In a continuation of contemporary ontologies, anthropologist
dualism and shows the unique nature of the living via semi-
research in Amazonia, he explores “sylvan thinking”—shared
consequences: though the West only considers human the
of opposition between language-based beings and others
who live in an intimate relationship with a group of beings v
the non-human and the inert, have in this way developed a
to the artistic experience, goes beyond language. The Run
this world as being relationships based on communication
thinking so as to draw ethical orientations from it that will a

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about the concept of “the living thought.”
You make the provocative argument that
thinking exists beyond humans and lan

guage. Could you please give us a primer
on this form of “non-human” thinking?

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of thinking that I call “sylvan.” Sylvan thinking is a kind of thought that does not just belong to us humans. It is something we share with all of life. My work in the Amazon began by appreciating this form of thinking as an ethnographic and biological reality, and my book focused on understanding the impact of this insight on our metaphysics. My current work has moved toward capacitating sylvan

thinking as an ethical orientation for our times of ecological crisis.

In the West, our metaphysical mistake has been to collapse all kinds of thought into a single kind of thought: human thought. By focusing on this very special kind of thought, we lose sight of others and in fact relegate everything that doesn't conform to it to the domain of non-thought. The result is dualism. Dualistically separating the human from the rest of the world is pervasive and problematic. My claim is that although humans are indeed different (in large part because we think differently), that difference is housed in something greater that holds it. For philosopher Charles Peirce, dualism is nested within a larger more encompassing monism. This makes sense when you think about life. Living beings are very different from machines. A machine is made of lots of distinct pieces that are then put together. Conversely, living organisms start as one and continue to be one, even as

differentiation creates “parts.” Thoughts
also begin and end as wholes. In

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, I try to follow connections
rather than chart differences.

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In your book, you write that “In impor

tant ways ... life and thought are one and the same: life thinks; thoughts are alive.”

What do you mean by this?

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One of the strategies I use regarding the idea of continuity is to take things that we think of as being totally different

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health sector has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care and services provided by the public sector. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Care Act 1999, which sets out a framework for the regulation of health care providers. The Act also sets out a number of objectives for the health care system, including the need to improve the quality of care and services, to ensure that care is provided in a timely and efficient manner, and to ensure that the health care system is able to meet the needs of the population.

One of the key challenges facing the health care system is the need to improve the quality of care and services. This is a complex task, as it involves a number of factors, including the quality of the staff, the quality of the facilities, and the quality of the care itself. There are a number of ways in which the quality of care and services can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff.

Another key challenge facing the health care system is the need to ensure that care is provided in a timely and efficient manner. This is a complex task, as it involves a number of factors, including the availability of staff, the availability of facilities, and the efficiency of the care itself. There are a number of ways in which the timeliness and efficiency of care can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff.

A third key challenge facing the health care system is the need to ensure that the health care system is able to meet the needs of the population. This is a complex task, as it involves a number of factors, including the availability of staff, the availability of facilities, and the efficiency of the care itself. There are a number of ways in which the health care system can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff.

There are a number of ways in which the health care system can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff. These improvements are essential for the health care system to be able to meet the needs of the population and to provide the highest quality of care and services.

The health care system is a complex system, and it is essential that it is able to meet the needs of the population. This requires a number of factors, including the availability of staff, the availability of facilities, and the efficiency of the care itself. There are a number of ways in which the health care system can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff.

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and to show that there is a degree of continuity among them. At some very basic level the first evolutionary dynamic, the first “self,” and the first thought are all the same thing. Life is basically a sign process. Something that stands for something, for somebody in some way or another, is a sign process, and that somebody through whom this process takes place is a “self.” This dynamic is what I call thinking, and those who do it are alive. As I make this broader claim I am less interested in the details of communication (whether it is via pheromones or calls) and rather in the more general idea that when an organism represents its environment in a certain way for the next generation, that’s a thought. For instance, in the shape they have, the cilia of a paramecium represent something about the water through which the organism moves; these organelles capture something about it and that’s a thought for the next generation. It’s at that basic level

that thought and life are the same. And it
is on the basis of this that more complex
forms of communication, human and

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Would you say that the forest is inhabited
by selves or that the forest is a self?

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by selves, but that some of those selves are at a higher level than the individual and that these higher order selves can have emergent properties. But is the forest itself a self? Where does a forest begin and end? Perhaps one could say that a forest is the largest emergent self that one might find in a “forest.” I’m not sure. I think that the forest contains selves that are not human and greater than individuals, and that some of these have some kind of emergent properties that often I think of as “spirit

like.” That has become one of my great interests lately, understanding what kind of reality that spirit life is; are they selves? But it is still unknown territory for me.

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You use semiotics to demonstrate that signs go well beyond the human and indeed this is the basis on which you develop an “anthro

pology beyond the human.” Could you give some examples of how the Runa manage to communicate with other living entities “

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Let me start off with the most “human” kind of sign: the symbol. Symbols, as opposed to the kinds of signs that are part and parcel of the rest of life, refer in an indirect way by means of a conventional system. A symbol refers to something in the world, not directly by pointing to it, but by pointing first to other symbols in a system of symbols. This creates a special form of thinking that is very powerful. It allows for

abstraction and enables us humans to think of things that don't actually exist. It is easy to get lost in the world of human thinking.

Anthropology's great contribution to knowledge involves the theoretical work it has been able to do with the ways in which humans think with symbols (concepts like culture, the social fact, discursive regimes, and social construction, are all products of thinking conceptually with the properties of symbols). But focusing only on symbols gets us into trouble because it makes it very difficult to understand anything that lies beyond symbolic systems or how we may

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Anthropology is more than a set
of theories, it also involves a powerful

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agnostic. By ethnography we generally refer to an intense immersion into a way of life coupled with a struggle to convey something about that immersion in a way that can make a maximal impact on our concepts. We generally think of anthropological immersions plunging us into exclusively human worlds. But I happened to have worked in a place in the Amazon where people live intimately with lots of kinds of beings, not just humans. Of course, they also care deeply about humans, but they live in an intensely complicated ecosystem that they need to understand. They were using some of those elements of the ecology for food, through hunting, gathering, fishing,

and gardening. This has forced them to become attuned to that forest world that houses these elements. To do this, they have had to understand the ecological relations in that world as communicative relations.

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doing was communicating with the beings
of that world or communicating like the
beings of that world. So, I was interested
in understanding what would happen upon
hearing a certain birdcall in the forest
and in understanding how people interpret
that call. I wasn't just sitting down and
asking people questions but having actual
real life interactions. Sometimes these
birds were flying over and calling and

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interpretation of those calls, and then observe what they would do. Different people interpret the calls in different ways, and how they interpret them affects what they then say, and you can trace all these things very carefully.

The prototypical example of a symbol is a word in human language. But the interesting thing about the dialect of Quichua spoken by the people I lived with is that it contains within it an entire, very well-developed lexical class that is not really symbol-like and that actually involves a large number of words that are somewhat imitative. Rather than trying to capture things in the forest, these words capture what Anna Tsing would call “happenings”, “events”, or “unfoldings.” They simulate the particular flavor of a temporal action in the forest and they paint it as a sonic picture, if you will. In Quichua, there are imitative “words” (or more accurately sound images) like

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, a shotgun firing.

These are the kinds of things that mean something but that are no longer in language. They are likenesses of the things they represent. When I pronounce
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, my mouth is opening in the way
that a blast of lead shot starts from
inside a gun barrel and fires out. By
using these, they are capturing a likeness
of the forest itself. Those clusters of
words are themselves a likeness of the
kind of thinking that is happening in the
forest and constitutes a picture of sylvan
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To what extent is this communication
with the beings that constitute this inter

connected forest ecology fundamental for
the Runa? And what happens when they
lose communication with those beings?

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Sylvan thinking, the kind of thinking that we all have as long as we are alive, the kind of thinking that is so exquisitely manifest in dense forests like those of the Amazon, is something we are always grounded in. We are sylvan beings because we are living beings. So you can't exactly lose sylvan thinking, but what you can lose—and this is what's scary

are the spaces where sylvan thinking flourishes and proliferates. In dense forests, like those in Ecuador's Amazon region, sylvan thinking is generated to such a degree and with such a wealth that its properties become inescapable. In a forest you can't but think like a forest and this kind of forest thinking can guide and inspire us at a time in which we are losing touch with the sylvan thinking that sustains us. The great madness of our world is that we are becoming "all-too-human minds" separated from what we seem to only be able to treat as

“matter.” This Cartesian divide is neither ontologically correct nor is it sustainable. This is why sylvan thinking can, to my mind, be such an important source of ethical guidance for the Anthropocene.

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Are you suggesting that these times are asking us to restore the “enchanted com

munication” that monotheism has broken?

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Let me just say something about the
Anthropocene. I think it is a funny thing.
It is criticized and not fully accepted as a
real geological epoch. A geological epoch
is based on indexical signs. An epoch
is real if it leaves a geological trace.
That's methodologically useful but not
particularly insightful in terms of life.

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or a critique. It draws awareness to the

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The number of people in the public sector who are employed in health care has increased by 1.2 million, from 1.3 million in 1980 to 2.5 million in 1998.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has grown so rapidly. One of the main reasons is the increasing demand for health care services. The population of the UK is ageing, and this has led to an increase in the number of people who need health care services. Another reason is the increasing demand for health care services from people who are living longer and healthier lives.

There are a number of ways in which the public sector can be made more efficient. One of the main ways is to reduce the number of people who are employed in the public sector. This can be done by reducing the number of people who are employed in health care services. Another way is to reduce the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are not directly involved in health care services.

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ways in which human “culture” is now
becoming a force of “nature” as Bruno

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as a place to inhabit. It is a critique of
a way of being and its effects. Donna
Haraway does a good job of showing that
with this funny term,
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The Anthropocene captures the ways in which humans are becoming forces of nature in certain ways and it also captures something about time. I think that by using the image of geology, the Anthropocene forces us to think about pasts, futures, and multiple temporalities in different ways, and I think it's very useful in that sense. The idea for me, then, is that in this time of the so-called "Anthropocene," sylvan thinking is helpful because it tells us things about time and how futures and pasts relate to

It is an ontological fact that we humans separate ourselves from the world with disastrous consequences, and the term “Anthropocene” alerts us to this. When we humans vastly simplify ecosystems for our exclusive gain, create worlds where we don’t need even need to understand where our garbage goes, where we are totally disconnected from all the ecological repercussions of our actions, this is a real problem. It’s not so much that if we just had the right theoretical lenses we could see that we are not actually separated. We are increasingly separated and that’s
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It's very important for me to insist on the ontological properties of things like symbols. Symbols create separations. This is not a mistake; it's a mode of being. Of course symbols aren't ever fully separate from the worlds from which they come and to which they refer and that's why I'm saying: "Instead of doing theoretical work with the separation, let's do theoretical work with the connections."

We need to be aware of connections as well as differences. The danger of a

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Donna Haraway, "Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making Kin," *Envi*

ronmental Humanities 6 (2015).

"flat ontology" is that it proposes to get humans and non-humans in the same picture and make them all the same. If you are basically saying that everything is the same, how can you explore and potentiate different kinds of ontological

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The kind of ontological explorations that I do, with the goal of explanation (i.e., telling you “how” forests think), is powerful but also dangerous and limited. For example, one of the problems for me (and other anthropologists) is that

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indigenous people I work with, because

according to my framework there is no
way that rocks can have life. For the
Runa, they do have life and, in fact, when

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them, I understand the animacy of rocks.
This is a tension that I want to sit with.

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productive conceptual work I'm doing
with sylvan thinking but I'm well aware
that it may close off certain possibilities.
My hope is that sylvan thinking will
suggest to me the emergent concept that
will, one day, allow all of this to

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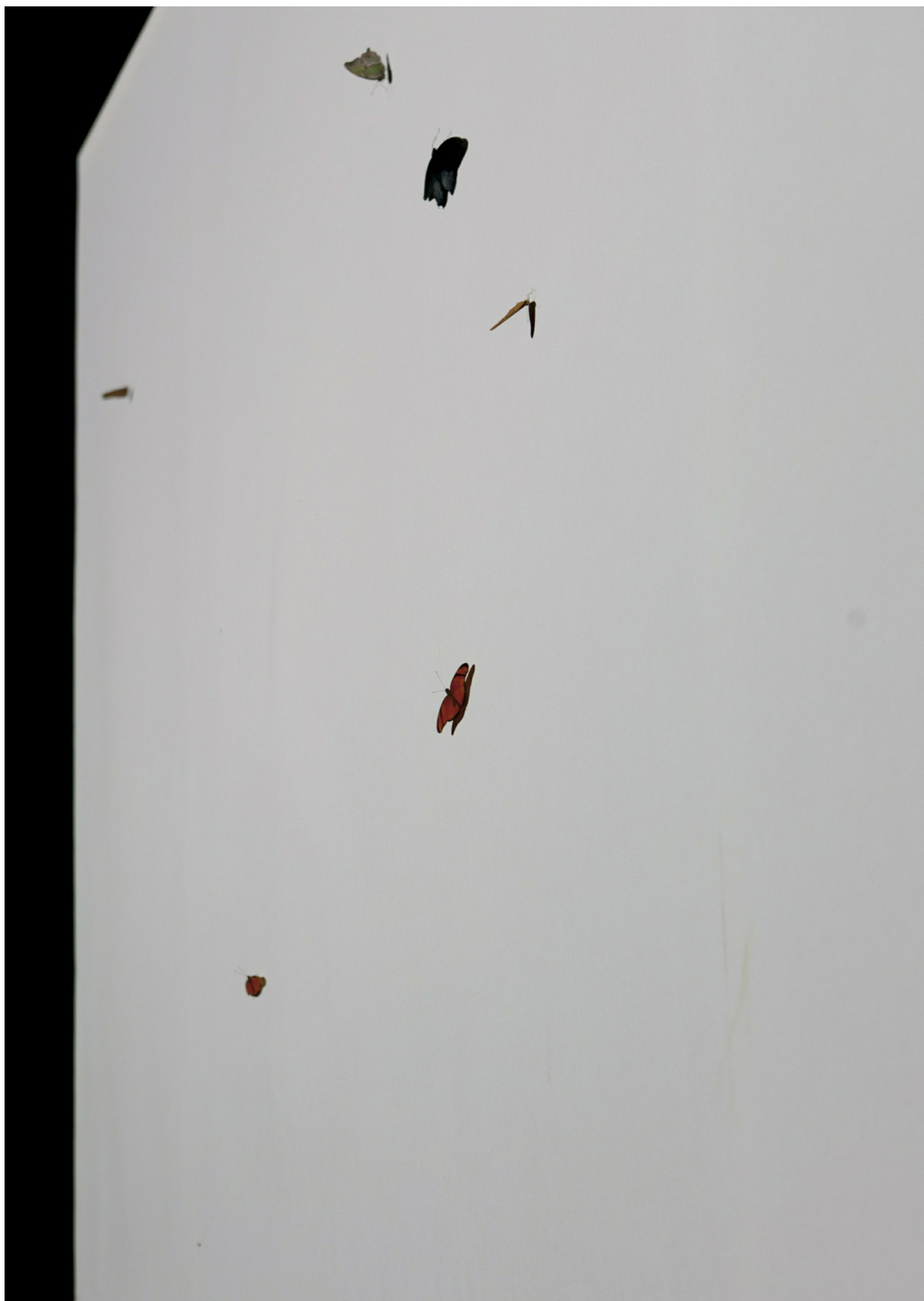
Is there a specific project that you are working on right now?

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I'm working with communities in the south-central Amazon, where there are no roads and that can only be accessed by plane or by canoe. The people there are connected to the forest in a highly

spiritual way at the same time that they have a highly sophisticated and very worldly kind of politics. Using the properties of sylvan thinking, they are allowing the forest to think through them. They are creating a politics based on what the forest tells them and I am working on that with them.

I'm also doing film work with Lisa Stevenson, who teaches anthropology at McGill. Film is the closest thing we have to thinking in pictures, to sylvan thinking.





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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health service has increased by 1.2 million, from 1.5 million in 1980 to 2.7 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the efficiency of the health service, and to ensure that the health service is able to meet the needs of the population in a cost-effective manner. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999. These initiatives have led to a number of changes in the way the health service is organised and managed, and to a number of changes in the way the health service is funded.

One of the key challenges facing the health service is the need to improve the efficiency of the health service, and to ensure that the health service is able to meet the needs of the population in a cost-effective manner. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999. These initiatives have led to a number of changes in the way the health service is organised and managed, and to a number of changes in the way the health service is funded.

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Votre œuvre opère souvent une « sortie de corps »
autre, étranger. On se met ainsi à habiter l'environnement
araignée, d'une mite, mais aussi d'un rocher ou d'un

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Jecrois que j'ai toujours vécu avec la sensation vi
et urbains d'Europe, vivions dans une définition i
bulle de rationalité nous isolait du reste du vivant
philosophiques,..), et que malgré tout le pouvoir q
rationnels avait semblé nous offrir, nous nous tro
Abstraits du reste du vivant, des racines nous ma
d'origine, mais des systèmes capillaires, des ench
ramifications partagées avec les lieux, les choses
qui s'agitaient dans le noir et que je me suis en que
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Intuitivement d'abord, puis de manière de plus en plus série de travaux qui permettaient d'approcher d'approcher et projeter et tisser, à partir de tous ces lieux qui ne sont qu'une réalité polycentrée et partagée.

Ce que je pourrais nommer « ma première œuvre » à la première fois où j'ai été confrontée au besoin du spectateur et un paysage pour lui faire ressentir l'œuvre.

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a surgi dans le cadre et j’ai eu besoin de lui pour pl
film et recréer l’endroit autour de lui en modifiant
personnage de cinéma était minimal et absolu : un
par la pensée, qui permettait d’arpenter l’endroit
quelque sorte à quatre pattes, et de sentir la prése
de relocalisation de soi qui avait ouvert un champ
monde en étant autre.

Ce premier film a initié une longue série d’œuvres

des végétaux, des pierres ou la force des éléments
étaient devenus possibles. Le cinéma est un des m
de soi, et j'aime beaucoup la manière dont il nous p
notre enveloppe corporelle avec une autre. En uti
habituellement à des personnages humains (par
ou l'« amorce » d'un personnage), j'ai pu établir de
perceptives entre des entités diverses, animées ou

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chouette et la place de la Concorde, des rochers et
posaient le pied, un renard et des spectateurs de c
moustiques et des explorateurs... À chaque fois, p
toute une trame de réalité se déploie, chargée de r
hiérarchie entre les choses est bousculée et remis

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ainsi pu instaurer une série de relations physique
qui retissent lentement un nouveau contexte pour
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du point de vue de ces autres
, j'essaye de « désanthropiser » notre
point de vue, de nous « déterritorialiser », selon un
Deleuze. Cette tentative vise effectivement à passer
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Dans le Gard, en 2002, à la suite d'inondations très violentes.



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remontant au « Je pense donc je suis au monde » qui
prive en quelque sorte de nos membres et de nos sens
mesure, on pourrait dire que mon travail s'appareille
vidéo, la performance, les rencontres avec des ch
philtres, des produits magiques. En permettant u
en tant que différents êtres vivants au milieu des a
remodelage des cartographies du monde qui tapi

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Vous parvenez à incarner et rendre crédible ce

tion. L'imprévisible, qui fait irruption lorsque
en plumes dans votre œuvre, est-il devenu un o

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De fait, je travaille à reformuler la sensation de n

au présent. Dans ce contexte, la notion de
ce qui se déroule

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L'impondérabilité du geste d'un animal ou du sur
la teneur. Il s'agit de rompre l'atemporalité de no
advient nous accroche au déroulement des chose
Avec les outils du cinéma, cela revient aussi à s'at
Non pas un suspense intense dans lequel on éprou
d'inquiétude délicat qui entretient notre position
suite des choses ; c'est pourquoi j'utilise tant cette

«fictionnelle», et pourquoi elle s'arrime souvent à une situation. Devant un film, nous avons quelque chose d'être vivants, d'éprouver des émotions ou une certitude dans la réalité. Outre ce que je cherche dans une œuvre, m'intéresse aussi de réintroduire cette intensité de la réalité sensible du vécu.

À ce titre, mon projet

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, une mise en abyme qui introduit l'espace

temps d'un film au milieu d'une forêt, est certaine. À l'occasion de la foire, j'ai convié le public à une p

Après quelques minutes à traverser les bois à la lueur des lanternes, nous sommes installés dans une clairière aménagée en cinéma. Ici, tout est en abyme la situation même. Il commençait comme au milieu des bêtes sauvages dérangées dans la nuit, des gens qui justement s'installent pour regarder un film. Ici, à l'entrée de la clairière... Le public pouvait ainsi s'observer en train de se déformer. Dans le passé, puis, progressivement, vers un point de sorte de climax où tout se réunissait dans un accord parfait, alors qu'un hibou regardant l'assistance apparaissait, puis un homme se levait « en vrai » et brandissait une torche. Ici, un hibou, perché sur un arbre. L'espace-temps fictif de la forêt se confondait avec le monde réel de ces gens. Ici, la dichotomie fiction-réalité, les avait réunis. Lors de la performance, ce fut comme si les spectateurs se réveillaient. Après avoir été inconfortables dans cette nuit humide et pleine de bruits, ils se détendus, heureux, et avaient envie de rester là. Comme si, en secret, comme si le dispositif les avait conciliés avec la forêt. Que ce soit en Meuse avec un public coutumier des performances de New York, cette performance agit comme un bain de lumière en relation à l'endroit. Ici, la manipulation de l'audience.

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la plupart de mes projets la situation est inextricable
travail est une affaire de relations et a peut-être à
fabriquer des moments qui ressembleraient à ces
mi-clos, la réalité se met à résonner avec une sorte
Dans cette affaire, le déplacement du point de vue
d'une manipulation du temps qui convoque autre

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introduisant d'autres centralités, mais aussi du h
déroulement de ce qui se passe, je tente de convoq
de densifier notre relation à ce qui est là sur des éc
À propos des bêtes, il y a cette intensité de l'impor
d'autre se passe, qui est tout aussi déterminant. Ja
manière en prenant l'exemple de son chat qui le vo
le temps». Un temps prélangagier, précivilisation
nous déshabille de l'Histoire. L'échelle des millén
cesse de fabriquer des récits minimaux situés dan
fonctionnent comme des récits d'origine ou des ré

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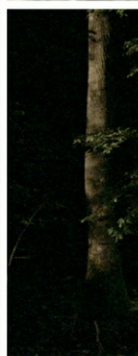
Vous convoquez des anthropologues comme T
objectif est-il de déculturer, de délester votre p
pour l'inviter à reconsidérer sa position au mo

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Oui. Philippe Descola a mis des mots très simples que le terme même de Nature opère dans notre société. Or justement il l'a fait récemment. D'autres pensent remettre en cause ou passer outre cette organisation posant l'humain au centre, s'est cristallisée au XVIII^e siècle cartésien. De fait, j'agis en artiste, ma tâche est de mettre les mains dans les perceptions et de notre imaginaire, et je ne suis qu'un artiste. Je pense que les gens ressentent aujourd'hui le besoin autrement. On pourrait dire que je me place dans les années 1970 par les Hippies, l'Écoféminisme est en effet de nous délester de l'idée même de nature laissant au-dehors. Nous devons recomposer le monde comme un élément parmi d'autres. Pour les Inuits, Dolgans, les Mongols, les tribus africaines, les cultures « nature » n'existe pas, il y a de la pensée et des centres de nous. Il est nécessaire que nous cessions d'aspirer

sommes. De simples êtres vivants, mortels, finis, aux mêmes cycles que les animaux, les végétaux, inextricables, catégories inventées pour l'analyse, reconsidérer d'un point de vue imaginaire.

Notre pensée individualiste nous amène par exemple à voir l'individu comme un individu isolé, or il est très probable qu'ils communiquent, agissent ensemble comme un seul être. L'individualisme sur le reste du monde, nous pourrions dire d'être qui nous entourent, nous penser au sein de nous-mêmes d'un tout. Une meute, une gorgone corallienne, un être humain comme intégré à un ensemble vivant nous rappelle l'animal social que nous sommes. Les arbres, les animaux réunis dans un organisme global, dans un même réseau. Je ne porte cependant pas de jugement de valeur et



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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1998, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There is a growing emphasis on the importance of the public sector in providing services to the community, and in particular in providing services to the elderly. The public sector is also becoming an important employer of people with disabilities, and in particular of people with mental health problems. The public sector is also becoming an important employer of people from ethnic minorities, and in particular of people from the Caribbean and South Asian communities.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer of people who are unemployed, and in particular of people who are long-term unemployed. The public sector is also becoming an important employer of people who are at risk of becoming unemployed, and in particular of people who are at risk of becoming unemployed because of their mental health problems.

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notre bagage culturel. Plutôt que de pratiquer un
à des inconscients, remodeler des sensations, fab

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Pour tourner votre long-métrage

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, vous avez embarqué sur le Tara, un navire destiné à la recherche et à la défense de une expédition scientifique au Groenland. Quelle discipline? Y avait-il conflit entre votre vision mais toujours « possesseurs d'une âme » et le po

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Je cherchais à filmer une rencontre première entre un paysage dépouillé, et il fallait que ce soit des humains dans une relation intense et nécessaire. Si le choix d'un concours opportun de circonstances, le fait que faisait sens pour moi : j'ai toujours été fascinée par

semblaient s'ouvrir dans les points quelquefois m'explorer, et en même temps j'ai toujours été sceptique. L'extrême conférée l'explicitation des choses, comme comprendre nous empêchait de simplement saisir l'expédition dans l'idée de retourner les procédés sur eux-mêmes. Ce qui m'a ouvert tout un champ d'un protocole, j'ai pu m'absenter de moi-même, devenir un pur prisme. Je pense être ainsi parvenu des bêtes que je n'aurais jamais vues.

Pour ce qui est de la relation humaine avec les sciences entre nos différentes positions, c'est peut-être moi. Certes, mon parti pris reposant sur une forme de questions a pu les dérouter au début, parce qu'ils reporters-interviewers cherchant à saisir les détails, j'ai constaté que je posais comme eux des pièges réguliers pour capter le moindre de leurs gestes. Ils se sont adaptés à mon attitude et ont accepté de jouer avec moi. Pour ce qui est de la surprise, ils l'ont très bien reçue. Aimé, même. S'ils ont la démarche de chercheurs, ils n'entretiennent pas le monde. Ceux qui partent sur le terrain aiment à la fois le film propose. Plus tard, Philippe Descola m'a dit que le « naturaliste » des Indiens, imbriqué à leur conception de la connaissance d'autres espèces avec lesquelles ils partagent le territoire donné participent de cette si forte relation.

avec chaque chose. De fait, les scientifiques sont p
conscience des existences infinitésimales qui nou
centres pour eux, et il doit leur arriver de s'y proje
pas antinomie entre la science et la représentatio
peu plus naturalistes, de façon à intégrer le reste
nous ouvrir à d'autres perceptions.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health sector has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care and services provided by the public sector. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Care Act 1999, which sets out a framework for the regulation of health care providers. The Act also introduces a number of measures to improve the quality of care, including the introduction of a new system of accreditation for health care providers.

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Undoing our anthropized visions of the world has become a realm of contemporary art that this decentering seems to h

sion. Through her films and installations, the artist Ariane M

of ourselves so as to modify our perceptions and wander through
uses animals, plants, stones, and the force of the elements
world and perceptive possibilities. Using tools from the field
incarnates in both an artistic and immersive fashion a disaster

lates the perception of time and shifts points of view by involving
Overwhelming our imagination, she invites us to recreate the

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Your work often induces an out-of-body
experience, inviting the public to become

part of an other, a stranger. In this way
one can inhabit the envelope of a walrus,
an owl, a spider, a mite, but also a rock or
a riverbank. What are the origins of this

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the violent sensation that we, human
and urban beings of Europe, live with
an inadequate definition of who we are.
That a bubble of rationality isolates
us from the rest of the living world in
multiple ways (religious, philosophical)
and that, despite all of the power that our
particularity as rational beings seems to
offer us, paradoxically we find ourselves
incapacitated. Abstracted from the rest of
the living, we were missing roots. Not so
much places of origin, but rather capillary
systems, entanglements and continuities,
ramifications shared with places, things,
and beings. Phantom limbs that flail in
the dark and that, to a certain extent, I
propose to make grow back.
Intuitively at first, and then in a more
and more precise fashion, I embarked

upon a series of works that allowed me
to approach other “centers of the world”
so as to project and weave them together,
beginning with all of these places that are
not us, a kind of polycentric and shared

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What I could call “my first artwork”
from this point of view corresponds to the
first time that I was confronted with the
need to recreate a connection between a
spectator and a landscape so as to make
them feel the strangeness that reigns after
heavy flooding. That day, a dog that

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popped up in the frame and I needed him

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to help the spectator to dive into the film and recreate the place around them by modifying their perception. Stray-wolf, this character from the realm of cinema was minimal and absolute: a vehicle for the body to be integrated through thought, allowing one to wander through the place, listening, ears pricked, on all fours to some extent, and to feel the presence of things. A privileged tool for the relocation of oneself that opened up a huge field of enquiry: we could explore the world as

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This first film set off a long series of artworks that used animals, but also plants, minerals, and the power of the elements. Thousands of centers of the world became possible. Cinema is one of the ideal means for projection in itself, and I really like the way in which it almost allows us to confuse our corporeal envelope with that of another. By using codes that we usually apply to human characters (for example shot-reverse shot, or the “establishment” of a character), I could create dialogues and p

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trajectories between various entities,
animated or not, that

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and the place de la Concorde, rocks and
a shore that scientists step onto, a fox

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and explorers. Each time, through an increasing number of journeys, a whole reality is woven and deployed, charged with our presence, in which the hierarchy between things is upset and reestablished.

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able in this way to forge a series of
physical relationships of perception for
the spectator who slowly recreated a new
context for being in the world.

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from the point of view

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, I tried to “disanthropize” our
point of view, to “deterritorialize” us,
borrowing a term from Gilles Deleuze.
This attempt effectively aims to move
beyond this narcissistic “I” that goes back
to “I think therefore I am in the world”
which permeates our culture and deprives
us somewhat of our limbs and our
sensations. To a certain extent, one could
say that my work is similar to that of a
shaman. Video, performance, encounters
with things and objects are potions for

me, magical products. By allowing a succession of repositionings as different living beings in the midst of others, they make it possible to reshape the maps of the world that line the depths of

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You have succeeded in embodying and

rendering this adventure of disanthro

pocentrization credible. Has the unpredic

table, that comes bursting into your work
when the living becomes flesh, elytra, and
feathers, become a creative tool?

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In fact, I work to reformulate the
sensation of our presence and our
relationship with the present. In this
context, the notion of

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is primordial. The unpredictability of an animal's gesture or the rising of a wave sets out the contents. It is a matter of breaking with the timeless nature of our bubble. The uncertainty of what is coming ties us to the unfolding of events, whether they are spontaneous or provoked. Using tools from film, this also goes back to being attached to the idea of suspense. Not an intense suspense where one feels fear, but rather a delicate filament of worry that keeps us "on edge" connecting us to the result of things; this is why I use this narrative dimension so much, inherently "fictional" as it is, and why it is often connected to the minimal relationship of an animal to a situation.

Faced with a film, we sometimes have a greater sense of being alive, of feeling emotions or a certain form of existence, rather than of being in reality. Along with what I am seeking in a reverse cartography of the real, I am also interested in reintroducing this intensity of the fictional experience into the sensitive reality of the experience.

As such, my project

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that introduces the space

time of a film into the middle of a forest,
is certainly emblematic: in Basel, during
the fair, I invited the public to a nocturnal
projection in the forest.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people in the public sector who are employed in health care has increased by 1.2 million, from 1.3 million in 1980 to 2.5 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999).

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of health care, and this has led to a number of initiatives to improve the quality of health care. The Department of Health has set up the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) to monitor and improve the quality of health care. The NPSA has set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care. The NPSA has also set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care.

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The NPSA has also set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care. The NPSA has also set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care. The NPSA has also set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care. The NPSA has also set up a number of committees to monitor and improve the quality of health care.

After a few minutes of walking through the woods by torchlight, people, settled in a clearing that had been set up as a cinema, discovered a film that mirrored the situation itself. It began like a sort of animal fiction, in the midst of wild animals being disturbed in the middle of the night by the arrival of humans that were indeed there to watch a film. Then the animals approached the clearing. The public could in this way observe itself through a distorting prism. First in the past, then gradually in real time. Until a sort of climax where everything is brought together in an absolute harmony between film and reality: when an owl watching the audience appears in the image blinded by a lamp, a man stands up “for real” and brandishes a torch, allowing us to discover the self-same owl, perched in a tree. The space-time, fictional but hyperrealistic, of the world of the forest blends with the real world of the people

sitting there. The experience, playing on the dichotomy between fiction and reality, brought them together. Once the lights were relit, it was as if the spectators had just woken up. Having felt relatively uncomfortable in this humid night filled with creaks and cracks, they now seemed relaxed and happy and wanted to stay there. It was as if they had shared a secret, as if the setup had reconciled them

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Whether it be in Meuse with a public
used to forests, or in a park in New York,
this performance acts like a hypnotic
bath that reformulates the relationship
with the place. Here, the manipulation
of the audience goes further, but in most
of my projects the situation cannot be
separated from the work. It is that my
work is a matter of relationships and is
perhaps related to dreams. I try to create
moments that resemble those soft sighs
where, with one eye half open, reality
begins to resonate with a sort of “reverse”

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In this case, the shift in one's point of view cannot be separated from a manipulation of time that summons something other than the

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introducing other centralities, but also the off-camera and arcs in the course of what is happening, I attempt to convoke a layering of space-time, to densify our relationship with that which is there on

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Concerning animals, there is this intensity of uncertainty, but something else is happening, which is just as determining. Jacques Derrida said it very well by taking the example of his cat

who saw him naked: the animal watches “since time.” A time that is prelinguistic, pre-civilizational, a time before us that undresses History for us. A scale of millennia emerges. In fact, I have been constantly creating minimal tales located in pre- or post-worlds. They function as creation stories or mythical tales.

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You call upon anthropologists like Tim Ingold and Philippe Descola. Is your ob

jective to de-culture, to free your audience from a European cultural burden so as to invite them to reconsider their position in

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Yes. Philippe Descola used very simple and very strong words to describe this rupture that the term nature itself creates in our society and that of which it is symptomatic. Something that it did recently. Other thinkers today seek to question or go beyond this organization of the segmented world that, placing the human at its center, crystalized in the cartesian eighteenth century. In fact,

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my hands into the very foundations of our perceptions themselves and of our imagination, and I am only a symptom of our society. I think that today people feel the need to perceive things otherwise. One could say that I place myself in the wake of the movements initiated in the seventies by the hippies, ecofeminism, or Starhawk. My goal is in effect to free us from the idea itself of nature that divides up the world and leaves us on the outside. We should recompose the world in a different fashion, placing ourselves in it as one element among many others.

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For the Inuits, the Amazonian natives, the Dolgans, the Mongols, African tribes, ancestral Chinese cultures, “nature” does not exist, there is thinking and there are centers of the world all around us. It is necessary for us to stop aspiring to be something other than what we are. Simple, living, mortal, finite beings, made up of molecules that belong to the same cycles as animals, plants, and minerals. Realms that are indeed inextricable, categories that were invented for analysis but that must now be reconsidered from an imaginary point of view.

Our individualistic thinking leads us for example to look at a tree as an isolated individual, whereas it is quite probable that trees located in a same region communicate, acting together like a sole body. Rather than basing our individualism on the rest of the world, we could take inspiration from the ways of being of that which surrounds us, imagining ourselves within our species as part of a whole. A pack, a gorgonian coral, a forest. Considering the human, physically, as being part of a living whole that allows one to reconsider the social animal that we are. Trees, minerals, the elements, and ourselves, united in a single global organism, in the same movement in

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value judgements and do not qualify our
cultural baggage as a “burden.” Rather
than practicing a militant art, I prefer to
speak to subconsciousnesses, to reshape
sensations, to create imaginations and

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To shoot your feature film

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you boarded the Tara, a vessel dedi

cated to research and the environmental protection, to accompany a scientific expedition to Greenland. What were you looking for in this meeting of disciplines? Did any conflict arise between your vision of beings, both living and inanimate, but always “possessing a soul” and the Cartesian point of view of the scientists?

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between animals and men in a deserted
landscape, and it had to be humans
practicing the landscape in a relationship
that was intense and necessary. Even
though the choice of this particular
voyage was the result of a timely
combination of circumstances, the fact
that it was with scientists made perfect
sense to me: I have always been fascinated
by the grandeur of the universes that seem
to open up the sometimes microscopic
points of reality that science explores,
and at the same time I have always been
skeptical and distracted as to this extreme
place given over to the explanation
of things, as if the fact of wanting to
understand at any cost prevents us from
simply grasping what is right in front

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idea of turning the scientists' procedures of observation back on themselves. This opened up a whole aesthetic field to me: made free by this idea of a protocol, I could become removed from my own self, and fuse with my instruments and become a pure prism. I think that in this way I managed to observe humans as animals that I had never seen before.

As to the human relationships with the scientists and the friction between our different positions, I was perhaps more surprised than they were. Certainly, the

position that I took, based on a kind of silence and a total absence of questions may have unsettled them at first, as they were more accustomed to reporter

interviewers that sought to uncover the details of their thinking. But they quickly recognized that like them I set regular and systematic framed traps to capture the smallest of their gestures. Little by little, they recognized themselves in my attitude and accepted to play with me.

With regard to the film, to my great surprise, they quite liked it. Quite a lot, even. Though they remain rationalist in their approach as researchers, they don't have a less magical relationship with the world. Those who go out into the field love more than anything else "to be," and this is what the film proposes.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1999. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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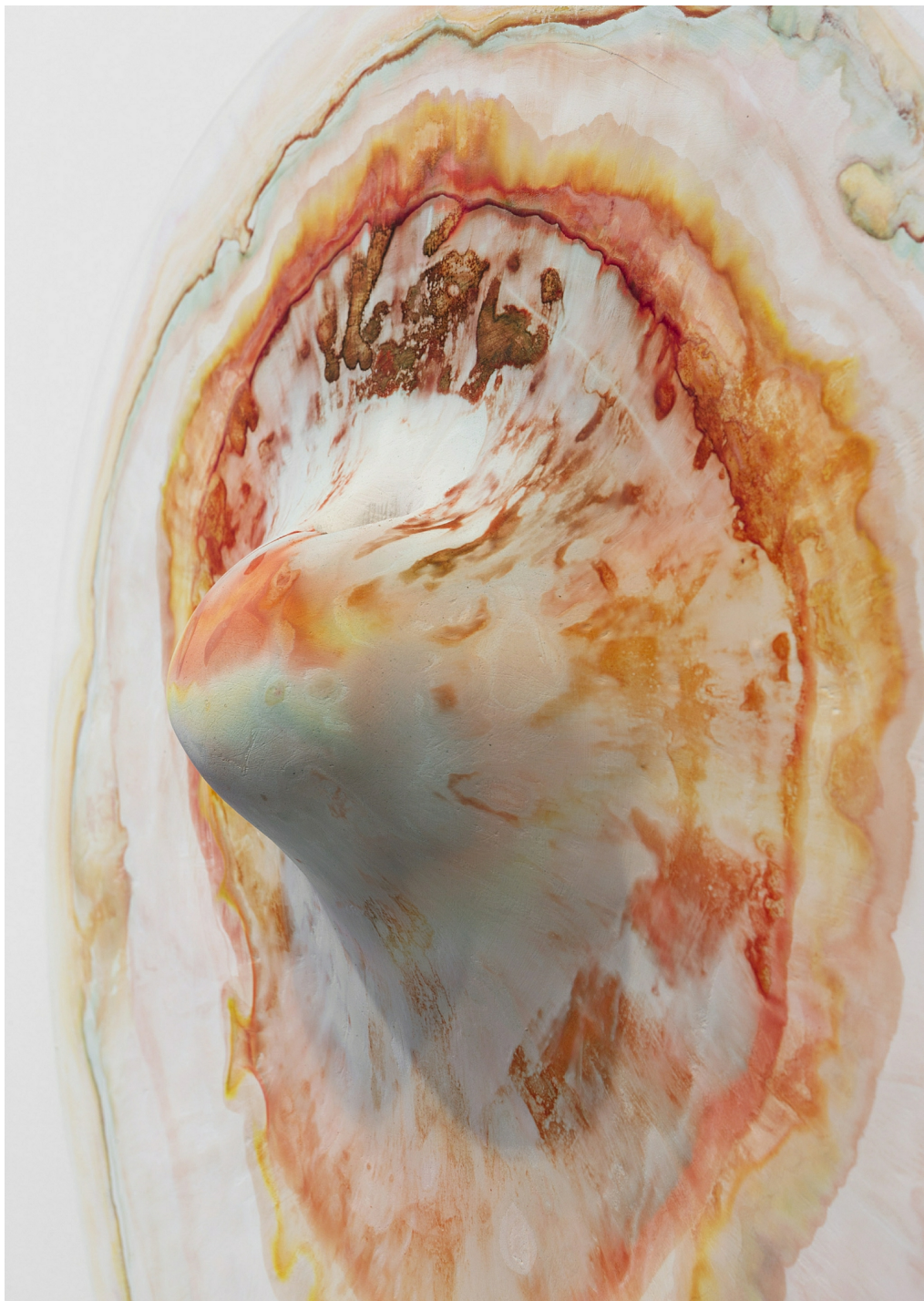
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Later on, Philippe Descola confused me when he spoke to me about Indians' "naturalistic knowledge," something that was interwoven with their conception of the world. Awareness and knowledge of other species with which they share a presence in a given territory contributes to this very strong human relationship that they have with each thing. In fact, scientists are probably the people who are most aware of the infinitesimal existences that surround us. The world is filled with centers for them, and there must be times when they project themselves onto them. Basically, there probably isn't any antinomy between science and representation. We would certainly gain from becoming a little more naturalist, in such a way that we become part of the rest of the world in our imagination and open ourselves up to other perceptions.





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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, women made up 40% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 50%. This increase in the number of women in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of women in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of young people. In 1980, young people made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, people with disabilities made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%. This increase in the number of people with disabilities in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people with disabilities in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, people from ethnic minorities made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 50 years of age. In 1980, people over 50 years of age made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase in the number of people over 50 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 50 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 20 years of age. In 1980, people under 20 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 65 years of age. In 1980, people over 65 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%. This increase in the number of people over 65 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 65 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 16 years of age. In 1980, people under 16 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 75 years of age. In 1980, people over 75 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%. This increase in the number of people over 75 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 75 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 12 years of age. In 1980, people under 12 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 85 years of age. In 1980, people over 85 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%. This increase in the number of people over 85 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 85 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 8 years of age. In 1980, people under 8 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 90 years of age. In 1980, people over 90 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%. This increase in the number of people over 90 years of age in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 90 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 5 years of age. In 1980, people under 5 years of age made up 5% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 10%.

En cédant au vivant le pouvoir formel sur vos œuvres, la nature de l'auteur ; l'effacement de la figure de l'artiste, la dynamique de « laisser faire » confère-t-il un statut à vos escargots, oiseaux et autres champignons ou coquilles qui composent vos pièces ?

Y

En réalité je ne laisse pas totalement faire, car il faut que ça passe, ce qui serait ennuyeux pour le spectateur. Je ne cherche pas à encourager la matière, à la manière du jardinier qui laisse les choses arriver, même si elles sont le résultat d'un travail. Il arrose ou paille la terre, mais ce n'est pas lui qui décide. Son rôle est d'optimiser les conditions d'installation, de culture intensive ni de désherbage évidemment. C'est une non-obligation de résultat face à des phénomènes naturels à 100 %. Je ne cherche pas à avoir le pouvoir sur les choses, à contrôler les intentions, mais au contraire à les observer, à comprendre leurs besoins pour faire en sorte qu'elles se développent. Je m'avance ce qu'il va se passer lorsque je mène des expériences et c'est justement cette surprise permanente qui m'intéresse. Les conditions nécessaires à ce que la forme s'autogénère, à reproduire des choses qui pourraient se passer sans moi. Ça s'efface, se fait discrète, mais pas celle de l'artiste qui impose. Le fait que je suis l'artiste et non les souris ou la moisissure. Le résultat est le fruit d'une collaboration.

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Il s'agit bien d'un travail en commun, d'une association d'êtres vivants.

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Oui, avec ses avantages et ses risques, car les cho
au sens où la domestication ne réussit pas toujours
complètement dépassé par les insectes, les odeur
d'expositions... L'idée de domestication est un pe

exemple probablement rapproché de l'homme par
de me demander qui du chien ou du maître est le vrai
en assistant à des scènes où l'animal, assis sur les
dans son assiette, ou lorsqu'ils partagent le même
pression à l'heure du repas, et c'est souvent l'anim
Mais il y a toutes sortes de domestications. Certai
pure et dure et peuvent être assimilées à une form
parfois à la mort de l'animal. D'une certaine façon
l'attitude générale de l'homme vis-à-vis de son en
D'autres formes de domestication relèvent d'avan
Maasaï incisent légèrement la jugulaire de leurs
L'animal reste ainsi en vie, son sang se renouvelle
l'eau dont ils ont besoin. Au final la vache est bien
de sang, car les Maasaï ont conscience de ce qu'el
Ils la respectent, la nourrissent, la protègent des p
l'autre de ces approches relève du choix politique
la domestication comme un

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,je me sers de leur bave pour produire une peinture



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de quoi je leur offre de la bière, ce dont ils raffolent
bon moment contre une petite performance, après
cette domestication n'est pas trop traumatisante
De même, dans la pièce

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», en lien avec celle de domestication. J'y propose
aux fourmis – dans les pieds de la table – ainsi que
générées par le repas – contre un service de netto
Cette pièce met en perspective la question de la co
il est possible de partager un espace de façon à ce
compte. Nous nous nourrissons de vivant, qu'il so

donc intimement lié à lui. Le but de tout être vivant
se perpétuer, de survivre le plus longtemps possible
comment composer intelligemment avec les autres
morale, c'est aussi et surtout une question de bon

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il est aussi question de prédation. Des individus, enfermés dans une pièce vitrée, mangent de la viande moustiques. Cela recouvre l'idée de rendre ce que est lié à cette relativité de l'être, à l'exploration de non-maîtrise, car le pouvoir que nous nous arrogons. D'autant plus que nous l'exerçons de manière de même que nous ne sommes qu'un maillon de la chaîne de protéger la planète est assez symptomatique de la planète se moque bien des humains, elle a comme la continuera de la même manière. Le vivant n'a pas protégé. L'homme est avant tout dangereux pour

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Est-ce relativiser que donner de l'importance à « ignorées », considérées comme rebut ou déchets

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Je dois avouer qu'à l'origine de mon travail avec la
une fascination purement plastique. Si vous prenez
remarquerez à quel point c'est magnifique : duvet
changeant en termes de couleur ou de forme. Elle
charrie dans l'imaginaire collectif toutes sortes d'
à la mort et au contrôle, synthétisant de nombreux
cette matière car elle est vivante et possède donc
intelligence mise au service de sa survie. Le fait qu'
à chercher de la nourriture, à élaborer des compr
partager un espace restreint, rappelle que tous les
mêmes problématiques, bien que les résolutions f
la conservation du vivant est le lot de chacun d'en

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Les Nouvelles amibes domestique,

vous donnez à voir des existences invi

sibles et troublez l'acception commune de ce qu
faites-vous entre l'inerte et l'organique?

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d'un individu hôte, subvenant ainsi à leurs besoins tout en rendan

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Je ne fais pas de distinction entre l'inerte et le vivant, organiques et celles qui ne le sont pas. Tout finit par se décomposer et c'est bien le problème. Quelle que soit la matière, dans l'environnement et finit par être intégrée à la grande machine. Le plastique rejeté en mer se désintègre et disparaît. Les micro-particules, avant d'être pêchées, se confondent avec les matières. Il n'y a pas de frontière. J'ai du mal à comprendre la frontière que l'on place entre le vivant et le non-vivant, alors que tout n'a cessé de changer d'état en fonction du temps. La vie et la mort, comme le mouvement et la fixité.

en mouvement autour de nous – la terre qui tourne, une plante qui croît, un micro-organisme qui « change » que nous n'apercevons pas forcément. Ce n'est qu'une question de point de vue : la vision des choses est conditionnée par notre échelle. C'est pourquoi pendant longtemps que les montagnes et que nous percevions les choses, nous les considérerions-nous davantage comme vivantes qu'elles ne le sont et aux mouvements à la limite de la perception. Ce n'est qu'à un certain temps pour les apercevoir.

De la même manière, considérer que mes œuvres vieillissent et se dégradent est une question de point de vue. En 1961, au Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, j'avais présenté des œuvres en pensant les renouveler une fois que celles-ci seraient mortes. Elles ne l'ont effectivement pas été et ont laissé place aux moisissures et à leurs araignées prédatrices. Bien que la pièce présentée soit morte, elle a engendré dix fois plus de vie que les simples lenticelles. C'est cette matière apparemment morte en place. La vie est partout, même dans nos identités particulières, je conçois le vivant comme quelque chose qui se développe, change de forme et se nourrit de la vie.

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Les personnes sensibles à leur environnement ont généralement un discours proche de l'animisme.

spiritualité, tandis que vous considérez principalement le textuel suivant une logique plutôt pragmatique compte l'immatériel dans le vivant ?

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Je ne pense pas être animiste et je ne suis pas pour croiser aux forces invisibles mais surtout au mystère. Le textuel n'enlève rien au mystère, je dirai même qu'il y a une part du vivant comme il y a une part de l'art qui c'est principalement ce qui me rattache aux deux.

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L'acquéreur de vos pièces vivantes en devient-il l'être d'un animal de compagnie ? A-t-il un devoir

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Les Nouvelles amibes domestiques
fait référence à l'acronyme des « nouveaux
animaux de compagnie ». Je m'intéresse à la façon
œuvre la relation physique et subjective qu'on peut

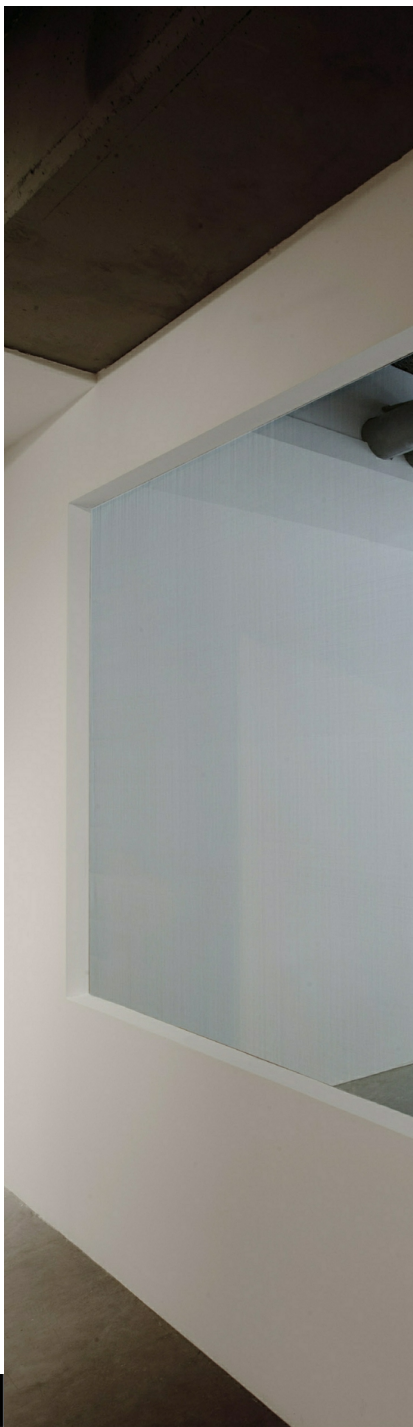
domestique. Mon sentiment sincère est que le seu
à l'intime. J'ai commencé à travailler sur ce sujet
peut-être parce que je ressentais une certaine mo



Monocoque

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2007



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, only 1.5 million women were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of women in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of young people. In 1980, only 0.5 million young people were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of young people in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, only 0.1 million people with disabilities were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 0.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people with disabilities in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, only 0.1 million people from ethnic minorities were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 0.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 50 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people over 50 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 50 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 25 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people under 25 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 25 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 65 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people over 65 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 65 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 18 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people under 18 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 18 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 75 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people over 75 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 75 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 15 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people under 15 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 15 years of age in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are over 85 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people over 85 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people over 85 years of age in the workforce. The public sector has also become a major employer of people who are under 12 years of age. In 1980, only 0.5 million people under 12 years of age were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people under 12 years of age in the workforce.

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susciter une émotion devant une chose en train de
qui donne à mes yeux l'importance d'un moment c
retrouve devant une chose dont on sent bien qu'elle
pas seulement à montrer le processus – puisque n
résultat – mais les choses en train de se faire.

Trop de collectionneurs achètent des œuvres mot
à un groupe et d'être reconnu, ou voient cela comm
investissement, les œuvres d'art échappant à l'im
passe en dehors de ce rapport intime à l'œuvre, al
selon moi. C'est la relation affective qui se tisse en
qui m'intéresse, cette petite musique qui vous tra

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Concernant le devenir physique des amibes

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, il ne faut pas oublier que ce
sont des organismes dotés d'une bouche par laquelle
devenir de la pièce est laissé au choix du collectionneur
alimenter ou non. S'ils ne sont pas alimentés en eau,
«dormance». Ils peuvent «reprendre vie» dès qu'ils
sont de nouveau réunies.

Quoi qu'il en soit, l'œuvre est vouée à évoluer. J'utilise
alimentaires – semblables aux colorants utilisés dans
les amibes présentes dans l'eau. Plus on verse régulièrement
le support de plâtre qui sert d'exosquelette, plus l'accumulation
l'accumulation locale des amibes sera foncée. En fait,
les colorants sensibles aux UV verront leurs couleurs
du passage du temps. Si l'on ne veut pas que la pièce
l'alimenter de temps à autre, mais je n'impose pas

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Quel message cherchez-vous à faire passer au

Mon travail n'a pas vocation à dénoncer une mauvaise
un message. Je cherche simplement à trouver une
sais pas ce que je cherche à dire, je le découvre en
deviennent autonomes et se mettent à exprimer d
pas idée. Je ne conçois pas l'art comme un support

—
ceci relevant davantage au monde de la communication
Pour moi, il s'agit d'une rencontre et de toute la co

Une rencontre vous apprend beaucoup plus qu'un
C'est ce que j'essaye de provoquer, de véritables r
arrivé d'en avoir avec des œuvres. Ces instants ch
vous accompagnent comme un petit chuchotement
message publicitaire est univoque.

Lorsque je fais une œuvre, je suis totalement dans
je fabrique, ce qui suppose une forme de rencontre
n'est autre que la transmission à un public de l'exp
l'atelier. C'est ma propre rencontre que je rends p
aura lieu également avec les gens qui la regardent
entremetteur, quelqu'un qui présente des person

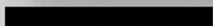
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eaux traitées comme l'eau du robinet, les eaux minérales, l'eau de
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Involving the living directly in artwork opens up creative opportunities for the living, and changes the status of the author and of the artist. For Michel Blazy, if the artist's role is to be discreet or even disappear from his work, that of the artist must be to be present. It is a matter of yielding power to the living, of "*laisser-faire*," at the

of creating the conditions for emergence, of encouraging
ner. The artist observes and seeks to understand the living
in such a way that the form self-generates. In this way, he ex
mestication of the living that are symbiotic rather than expl
the living underpins his thinking about the intelligence of s
the inert and the organic. Living and art have in common th
derstanding to some extent; the artist is not trying to delive
share an experience—the struggle with matter in the studio

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By yielding formal power on your

artworks to the living world, your work questions the nature of authorship; does the decline of the figure of man and the artist in this “laissez faire” approach confer a special status to the mice, snails, birds, mushrooms, or protocellular mi

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In reality, I do not leave it entirely to

them because this could result in nothing happening at all, which would bore viewers. My philosophy is more about nurturing matter, just like a gardener who would take the necessary measures to ensure that things actually happen, even if they arise from forces far beyond their understanding. Gardeners water or mulch the soil but are not the ones that actually make plants grow; they provide the conditions for the establishment of living systems. Obviously, I am not referring to intensive agriculture or weed control, but rather to the idea of the absence of an obligation to achieve results when dealing with things that cannot be brought under complete control. I am not trying to prevail over things, nor to bend them to my will, but rather to observe them, to understand how they function and what their needs are to ensure that they flourish. I do not know in advance what will happen when I conduct experiments in my workshop and this constant surprise is precisely what I am interested in. I

provide the necessary conditions for the
form to self-generate, which leads me
to replicate things that could happen
without me. The human figure fades away
and keeps a low profile, but not that of
the artist. There is no doubt that I am
the artist, and not the mice or the mold,
although the result does reflect a form

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partnership, but would you refer to this as

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Yes, this is domestication, with its risks and rewards. Things can indeed run out of hand in the sense that domestication isn't always a success. There were instances when I was totally overwhelmed by insects, smells, or mold during exhibitions. The idea of domestication is somewhat ambiguous

dogs probably sought out humans out of their own interest, for example. I even sometimes wonder whether the dog or its master is the true owner, especially when I

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the laps of their master and eating from their plate or when they share the same bed. Dogs exert considerable pressure during mealtime and oftentimes, the pet is the one that requests to be served. But there are all kinds of domestications. Some fall under outright exploitation and can be equated to a form of parasitization, sometimes even leading to the death of the animal. In a sense, this is fairly representative of humankind's general attitude toward its environment. Other forms of domestication are more akin to symbiosis. The Maasai cut a small slit in the jugular vein of their cows to drink their blood. The animals

thus remain alive, their blood is renewed and the Maasai get the protein and the liquid they need. The end result is that the cows are treated well, in spite of this bloodletting, because the Maasai are well aware of what the cows couldn't withstand; the Maasai respect them, feed them, protect them from predators, and so on. Choosing between these two approaches is a political choice. Personally, I view domestication as

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Lâcher d'escargots sur moquette marron
(Snail Release on Brown Carpeting), I use
their slime to produce a kind of paint, for
which they receive beer, which they are
mad about. I offer them some good time in
exchange for a small performance, after
which I release them back into the wild. I
hope this domestication isn't too traumatic.
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the idea of “commensality,” which is
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linked with the idea of domestication.
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the table as well as food—the crumbs generated by the meal—in exchange for a cleaning service. There is a shared interest. This work puts into perspective the issue of cohabitation as well as the way in which we could share the same space so that there may be something for everyone. We feed on living beings, both animals and plants, and are therefore intimately connected to the living.

Admittedly, all living creatures aim to self-preserve and to self-perpetuate, to survive as long as they can, yet asking ourselves how to intelligently deal with other living things isn't a moral issue but is first and foremost common sense.

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number of people are kept in a glass room where they eat meat and are bitten by mosquitoes. This covers the idea of “giving back.” All my work relates to this relativity of being, to the investigation of the notions of fading away and lack of control, because I puzzle over the power we wrest from the living. All the more so given that we wield that power in an increasingly alarming way, even though we are only one link in the chain of living things. Our desire to protect the planet is quite symptomatic of this extreme pride. The planet doesn’t give a damn about human beings; it started out without us and will carry on likewise. The living has

absolutely no need for our protection.
Humankind is first and foremost a danger

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1. The act of sharing a table, a meal. Commensal
animals feed on the parasites of a host, thus
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solo exhibition at Le Plateau, one of the Fonds
régional d'art contemporain (FRAC) Île-de

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Is it a form of relativism to attribute some importance to “useless and disregarded presences” that are regarded as waste

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mold finds its roots in a purely plastic fascination. If you take the time to observe mold, you'll notice how gorgeous it is: it is fluffy, forms beautiful circles, and the shapes and colors are constantly changing. Mold is nevertheless shunned because it is ingrained in our collective psyche with all sorts of concepts relating to hygiene, death, and control and thus brings together a great number of fears and anxieties. I am involved with this material because it is alive and therefore possesses, like all living beings, a form of intelligence that it puts to use for its survival.

The fact that a germ must move around, find food for itself, and reach compromises with its kind in order to

share a constrained space reminds us
that all living individuals contend with
the same issues, though the solutions may
take on many different forms. We are all
faced with this issue of self-preservation

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you make invisible existences visible and
blur the common understanding of what a
“living” thing is. How do you differentiate
the inert and the organic?

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living things, and organic matter from what isn't. In nature, it all ends up being mixed together; and that is precisely the problem. Whatever the material, it interacts with its environment and ends up becoming part of the great planetary body. Although plastics dumped at sea decay and disappear out of sight, fish ingest the particulates and eventually end up being eaten themselves. All matter thus blends together. There is no matter that I don't view as being alive. I find it hard to understand the boundary that we place between the inert and the organic when everything is constantly changing over time. It's just like life and death, like movement and stillness. Things are in constant motion around us—the Earth that is rotating around its own axis, a child or a plant that is growing, a micro

organism that is “hunting”—but we do not necessarily notice that. It's just a matter

of perception because how we see things is determined by our time span. If we lived longer than mountains and could perceive their movements, we would maybe consider them more as living things. I am interested in slowness and in movements at the threshold of perception, those we have to get away from for some time to be able to start noticing them.

In the same way, considering that my artworks grow or decay is a matter of perspective. In 1997, I had planted bags of lentils for an exhibition at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, thinking that I would change them when they spoiled. The lentils did indeed spoil and gave place to mold, fruit flies, and their predators, spiders. Although the primary work had decayed, it produced ten times more life than the plain green lentils. I therefore left this apparently dead matter in place. Life feeds on death and beyond our individual identities, I view the living as one large clump of matter that evolves, changes shapes, and

feeds on its own death.

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People who are concerned with their environment and other forms of existence generally express views that are close to animism. They refer to a certain spiri

tuality, whereas you primarily consider matter, the concrete, and textual content, thus opting for a rather pragmatic ap

proach. Do you sometimes consider the intangibles in the living world?

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that does not mean, however, that I am materialistic. I believe in invisible forces but above all I believe in mystery. Matter, the concrete, and textual content do not reduce the mystery in any way. I'd even go so far as to say that they set the stage for it. There is a part of the living, and a part of art, that eludes our understanding, and this is the primary reason why I am attracted to both these things.

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Do the buyers of your living pieces become their masters, just as they would be for a pet? Do they have a moral obligation to care for these micro-organisms?

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Domestic Amoebas) is a reference to
the French acronym for exotic pets. My

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interest has turned to how the physical
and subjective relationship we may
have with a pet can be transposed to an
artwork. I truly believe that art's sole
interest is to address intimacy.

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the exhibitions that only presented the remnants of a gesture or an intention. Since then, I try to arouse an affective response to something that is going on. What matters for me, and what I believe makes a moment important, is its scarcity, the fact that we find ourselves in front of something that we feel will not last. I do not only aim to show the process—given that any artwork results from it—but also things in the making.

Too many art collectors are driven to purchase artworks by belongingness and recognition, or see it as an investment, given that artworks are tax-exempt. Ninety percent of the art market occurs outside of an intimate relationship with the artwork though it is, I believe, the only

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Translator's

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one that really matters. The emotional connection that arises between the buyer and the artwork is what I am interested in, this beautiful melody that uplifts us and stirs up intimate recollections.

Regarding the physical outcome of the amoebas, bear in mind that these

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are organisms which are endowed with mouths they use to feed. But the fate of the artwork is at the discretion of the collector, who may continue to feed the amoebas or otherwise. Deprived of a water supply, these animals remain “dormant” and only “come back to life” once their environmental conditions

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Either way, the artwork is destined to change. I use food coloring that is similar to the dyes used for microscopy to dye the amoebas that are present in the water. If the plaster substrate that serves as an exoskeleton is frequently sprinkled with water, the colorful halo that reveals the local accumulation of amoebas will have a deeper color. If, on the other hand, nothing is done, the colors of the UV

sensitive dyes will fade away, reflecting the passage of time. To prevent the artwork from withering away, it should therefore be fed from time to time; I do not require a protocol of two daily meals to be observed, however.

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What message are you trying to convey through such a work?

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My work does not aim to speak up against an improper conduct or to convey a message. I am simply trying to find a suitable place for myself. I do not know what I am trying to express and am discovering it as I go along. The artworks start taking on a life of their own and expressing things that didn't even occur to me. I do not view art as a medium to deliver a message; this has more to do

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Amoebas
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in all environments, including in treated waters
such as tap water, mineral water, and swimming

pool water; they are shape-shifting predators. Ed.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1995, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has become an important provider of social services, such as health care, education, and social housing. Another reason is that the public sector has become an important provider of social security, such as unemployment benefits and pension schemes. A third reason is that the public sector has become an important provider of social insurance, such as health insurance and life insurance.

The public sector has also become an important employer of women because it has become an important provider of social services, such as health care, education, and social housing. Another reason is that the public sector has become an important provider of social security, such as unemployment benefits and pension schemes. A third reason is that the public sector has become an important provider of social insurance, such as health insurance and life insurance.

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with PR and media coverage. For me, art is an encounter, with all the complexity that this encompasses. An encounter teaches a lot more than a message: it's inexhaustible. This is what I aim to bring about, true encounters of the kind I have sometimes had with some artworks. These are life-changing moments; they follow you around and string along like a small whisper in your head. On the contrary, advertising messages are univocal. When I make an artwork, I am completely immersed in matter and in what I am making, which implies a form of encounter. Exhibiting the artwork is nothing more than conveying what I experienced in the workshop to an audience. I make my own personal encounter available to the public, hoping that the spectators will also experience it.

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Passionné de jardins, vous étiez commissaire

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, qui se tenait

de mars à juillet 2017 au Grand Palais. Parado

à aucun moment face au vivant végétal. Muséi

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L'exposition en soi est toujours le rapport d'un co
à l'instant où une osmose naît entre un parti pris e
précipité chimique. Il y a cette belle phrase d'Orh
le moment où le temps se mue en espace

¹
. » Je m'inscris dans le sillage de ceux

qui, à l'image de Pierre Huyghe ou Philippe Parre
muséographie, la rapprochant du cinéma ou de l'

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, j'aurais aimé reprendre le principe de l'exposition

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dont j'ai été le commissaire au Centre Pompidou
d'une grille offrant dès la première salle plusieurs
suivantes. Il y a donc probablement eu autant de p

visiteurs, ce qui était ma façon d'y insuffler l'esprit
un procédé scénographique similaire pour

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, en référence au labyrinthe où
l'on se perd et où l'on divague, plutôt qu'au jardin
d'étiquette en étiquette. Le Grand Palais est ainsi
deux étages s'est imposé, nous invitant à raconter
certes ouvert, mais où la déambulation est contrainte.
Le jardin est vivant par définition, il n'a donc pas
musée, maintenu sous des conditions de température
contrôlées, par souci de préservation des œuvres.
Le responsable de collection ne prendrait le risque de
détériorer une œuvre de plusieurs millions d'euros.
Le principe du vivant au seuil.

En pénétrant dans le Grand Palais, on quitte le jardin
dans l'histoire de ses représentations selon une séquence.
Mais le vivant fait tout de même quelques apparitions.

incarné par le visiteur qui s'y promène comme da.
présent avant l'entrée au travers de

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de Patrick Blanc, une

déclinaison de son mur végétal qui accompagne l

vivant s'arrête de manière très symbolique au seu

la fin, dans l'œuvre de Wolfgang Laib, artiste qui

à l'art et à la nature dans les années 1970. Alors q

mondialisait, lui se rendait dans les champs pour

pollen dans une pratique quasi zen de méditation

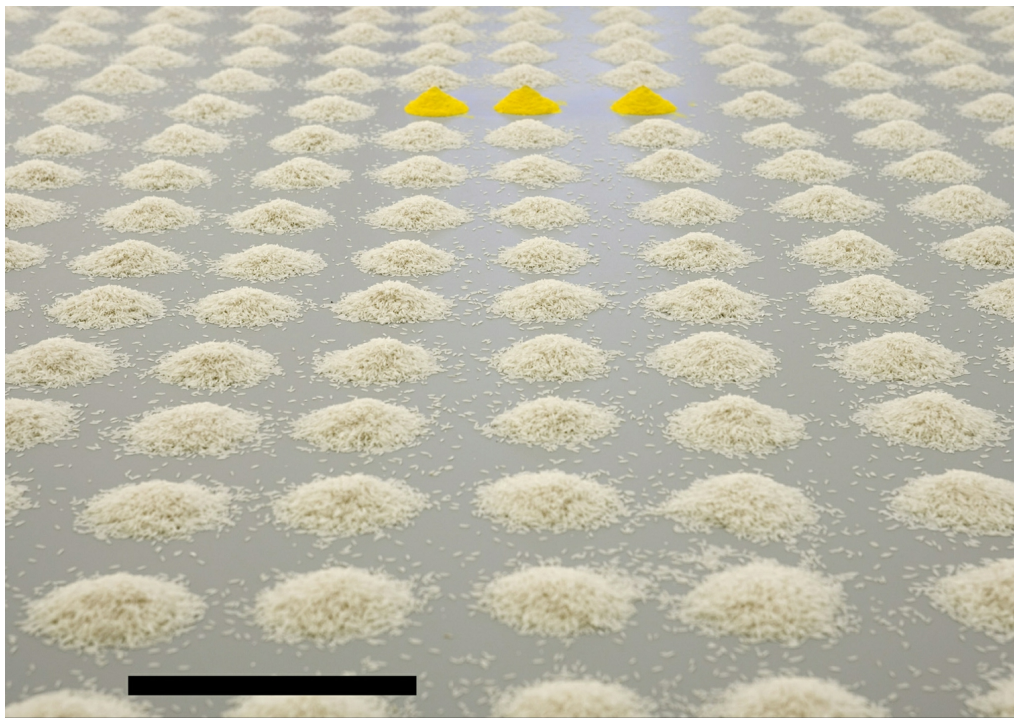
des carrés monochromes d'une densité colorimét

Palais, plutôt qu'un grand tapis ocre, il a choisi de

petites pyramides qui viennent clore l'exposition. Pour autant, le vivant n'est pas systématiquement des musées. Des plantes étaient notamment présentes dans les muséographies de collection permanente des années 1970. De l'ouverture du Centre Pompidou, Jean-Paul Poiré, directeur des jardins de Chaumont-sur-Loire – avait par exemple transformé les terrasses vides du musée à l'image des jardins suspendus de Babylone. Il est d'ailleurs le premier à avoir imaginé faire un

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Orhan Pamuk, *Le Musée de l'innocence*, Gallimard, Paris, 2011



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La Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek à Copenhague est au
les impressionnistes dialoguent avec les plantes t
dans un même espace des plantes et des collection

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La concomitance des expositions

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nous invite à nous deman

der si cette dernière ne constitue pas finalement
pourriez-vous d'abord nous rappeler le sens de

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On peut en effet appréhender l'exposition

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comme un diorama, et

d'une certaine façon l'exposition

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comme un grand jardin, bien qu'il

ne présente que peu de végétation. C'est un pur ha

de ces deux expositions en même temps à Paris, e

qu'elles concernent la même histoire. Ce sont deu

d'impossibles, touchant à des sujets liés à

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Le jardin l'est par définition – bien qu'il y ait des j
«mode» peut être discuté –, et le diorama reste dif
son architecture d'origine. Le challenge représen

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, l'enjeu était de traverser l'écran.

Étymologiquement, diorama signifie « voir à travers ». En quelques mots est un exercice difficile, puisque sa création, son invention par Louis Daguerre en 1822. Au début du XIX^e siècle, elle a petit à petit été accompagnée de deux cotés et un peu translucide – de manière à ce qu'ils puissent l'animer –, elle a petit à petit été accompagnée de créer une sorte de continuité visuelle et accentuer la continuité. Au XIX^e siècle, une nouvelle formule apparaît dans les musées : les systèmes de présentation de personnages et d'animaux. L'original est reconstitué. Trois plans le composent : au-dessus, une toile un peu courbe – raison pour laquelle on parle de diorama –, des éléments réels et factices – tantôt des personnages en cire ou des animaux empaillés co-

puis, devant tout cela, une vitre créant une frontière entre le monde du commerce.

Au Palais de Tokyo, nous voulions montrer la manière dont les contemporains se sont emparés de ce concept pour poser une question centrale : « Ne sommes-nous pas dans une fiction ? » La ville et la nature qui nous entourent ne pour- ront pas être une fiction. À la fin de l'exposition, la courbe du Palais s'agrandit, le diorama se déconstruit et la vitre se casse. Hanson, un sculpteur hyperréaliste, représente un

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, de sorte que l'imaginaire et la réalité se retrouve
regagner ce qui n'est peut-être qu'une illusion : no
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Vous opérez donc un jeu entre frontalité et inté

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C'est effectivement l'effet recherché, en particuli

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Le deuxième temps de l'exposition, que l'on pourr
cherche à ancrer le jardin dans le monde contemp

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N.D.E Cloisons mouvantes servant d'éléments de scénographie.

de l'Histoire pour ouvrir sur des possibles. Seules
réels sont présentées, mais le spectateur déambu

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L'art du jardin n'est-il pas lui-même une musée
en propose une représentation, une collection
un lieu clos?

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Au fond le musée, comme le jardin, est un lieu de p
corps et l'esprit vagabondent. C'est ce qu'Aragon
phrase: « Tout ce qui est d'égaré, de vagabond da
dans un mot : jardin. »

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Comment expliquer que le jardin ait une telle a

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La notion d'hétérotopie, forgée à la fin des année
donne une importance nouvelle à l'espace par rap
Parreno, Huyghe et d'autres ont révélé la manière

liées au monde de l'exposition. Selon Foucault, l'hôpital, le cimetière, un asile – est le lieu de l'utopie concrète, l'ensemble de l'imaginaire que l'on peut en avoir.

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parce qu'il est d'abord limite et seuil à franchir, par rapport à tous les possibles ensuite, est peut-être la plus accessible. Comme disait d'ailleurs : « Le jardin c'est la plus petite pa-
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» Le jardin entretient donc en permanence ce rapport d'échelles. Alors que Galilée – en découvrant la rotation du Soleil –, faisait tomber toutes les limites pour ce que Foucault renverse les choses et convoque Bachelard pour l'espace. C'est indéniable, l'espace porte une notion que le jardin a une actualité contemporaine fondatrice.

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Quel serait cet imaginaire dont le jardin est po

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Tout être humain peut cultiver son propre jardin,
Voltaire. Le jardin c'est aussi un rapport particul
peut prêter à la mélancolie. Mais aussi à l'abandon
le transmet si bien en pointant le macroscopique
travers de l'emboîtement des échelles.

Cependant, le jardin tend à devenir un phénomène
définition est de plus en plus galvaudée. Il ne faud
carrés de pelouse plus ou moins artificielle» et «r
s'ils réunissent des passionnés et participent de l'
des graines et autres festivals des jardins qui se d
représentatifs de la passionnante complexité des
proposer une lecture différente du monde. C'est p

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(conférence au Cercle d'études architecturales,
14 mars 1967), in Architecture, Mouvement, Continuité, n°5, oc







«le mur s'ouvre» et où le paysage est intégré – à ne pas confondre avec les notions fondamentales de première et deuxième nature. La «première nature» recouvre la nature préservée, la «deuxième nature» tandis que la seconde est dessinée par celui-ci au sein du paysage. Au XVI^e siècle émerge le concept de troisième nature, à mi-chemin entre nature et culture, à mi-chemin des deux premières. À quel point ces trois «natures» sont aujourd'hui importantes ? Elles ont commencé avec la présentation des parcs nationaux, qui ont été de nature primitive plutôt qu'en tant que constructions humaines. Elles ont transformé les États-Unis en un grand jardin en créant le National Park à l'échelle du pays tout entier.

Mais pour revenir à ce dont le jardin est porteur, c'est à dire à reprendre l'expression de Gilles Clément, qui le définit comme

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». Il dit avec poésie : « Pour faire un jardin il faut un
de terre et l'éternité. » On retrouve là toute la dyna
ce qui le rapproche encore du musée. L'instant et
piliers du musée, alors que le temps court de la con
celui de la création et de la collecte des richesses c
La relation avec le cabinet de curiosité semble ég
considère qu'ils sont apparus au moment de la sut
jardin fascine autant, c'est parce qu'il symbolise s
l'endroit où l'imaginaire vient se précipiter chimi
Le jardin accumule des couches de temps qui se su
latin – qui est encore la langue utilisée en botaniqu
de conservation et de disparition. Le plus grand j
se trouve au Muséum d'Histoire naturelle. C'est d

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, qui en est le responsable. L'Herbier de Paris regroupe la plus grande collection de plantes du monde de plantes disparues y sont inventoriées. C'est un projet de réaliser l'étendue de ce qui a disparu mais aussi de le retrouver. Nous avons la chance d'appartenir à une génération qui découvre la grotte Chauvet, à l'origine de l'évolution de notre espèce. Les peintures retrouvées sur les parois s'opposent en effet aux représentations du dernier. Cette grotte est parfois décrite comme le plus ancien paysage y a 35 000 ans, car le choix du site aurait été déterminé par la structure de l'arche naturelle. L'étymologie du mot paysage est un peu étrange et fait penser qu'il s'agit de la contraction des mots « pays » et « paysage ». On associe d'ailleurs la grotte à l'intérieur d'un crâne. Les images du paysage alentour et de ceux qui le composent.

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C'est en effet une superbe définition car la percep
du jardin, est éminemment liée à la mémoire. Pen

Yates et d'autres sur l'art et la mémoire. Penone,
le moment où l'on fait le premier pas, l'instant du t

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Gilles Clément, *Thomas et le voyageur*, Albin Michel, Paris, 1997.

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chemin. C'est ce qui marque le début de la création de ce mot d'Horace Walpole – qui fait le lien entre jardin et paysage, est polysensoriel, au point qu'il est peut-être la source d'une synesthésie : l'odorat, la vue, l'ouïe, le goût et le toucher. Les jardins ne sont faits que d'écorces. Le jardin est un paysage, que Michel Collot

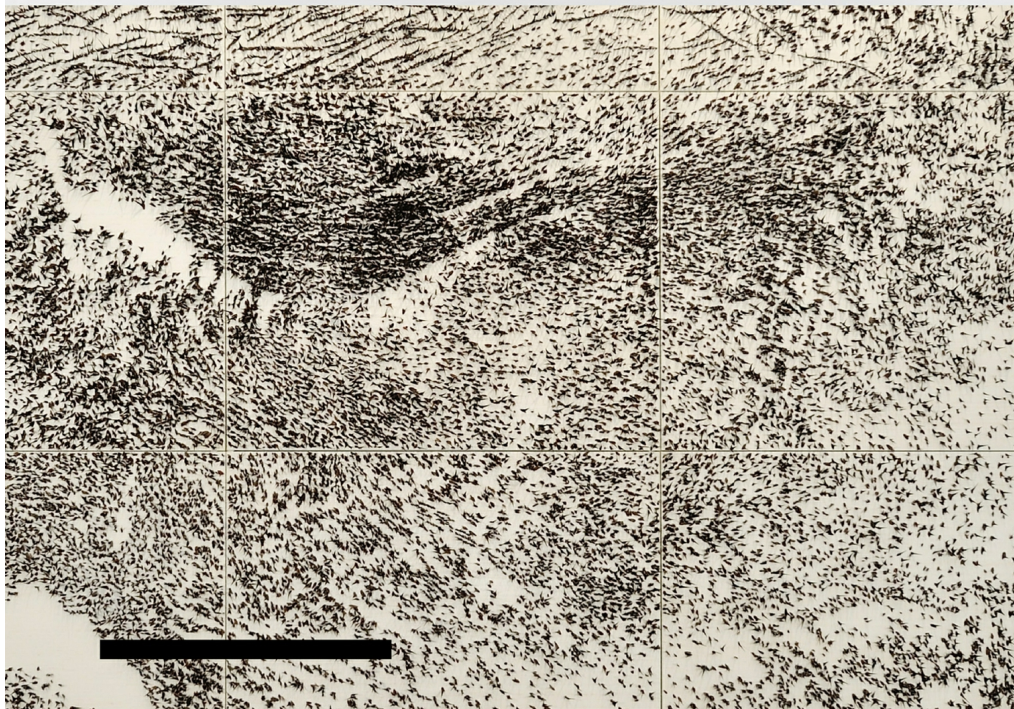
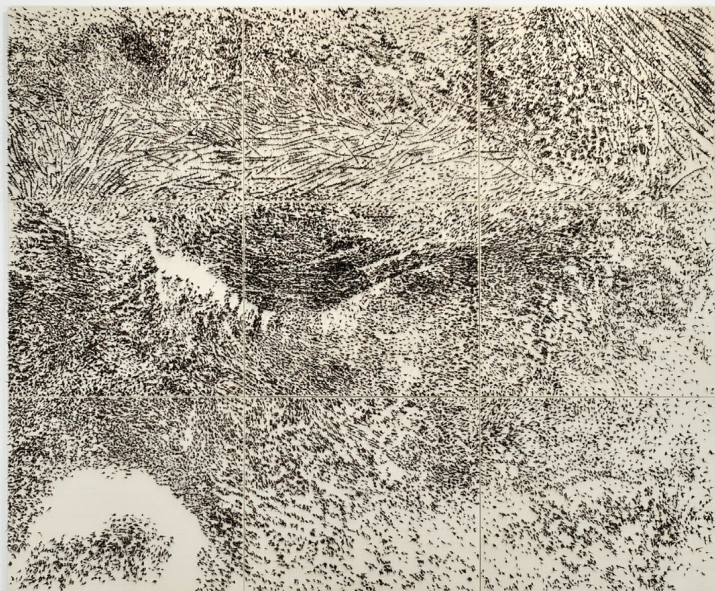
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a cherché à définir à travers ce mot merveilleux : l'horizon. Quel est l'horizon ? Celui d'une petite patrie ? Nous resterons sur cette question d'hétérotopie.

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Michel Collot, *L'Horizon fabuleux*, tomes 1 & 2, José Corti, Paris, 1997.





the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased by 50% (Mental Health Foundation 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of people with mental health problems in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a vision for the future of mental health services, which includes a focus on preventing mental health problems, supporting people with mental health problems in the community, and providing specialist services for people with severe mental health problems. The vision is based on the principles of recovery, which involves helping people to live their lives to the full, despite their mental health problem. Recovery is a process, and it is not always linear. It is a journey, and it can take time. It is a journey that is unique to each individual.

The vision for the future of mental health services is based on the principles of recovery, which involves helping people to live their lives to the full, despite their mental health problem. Recovery is a process, and it is not always linear. It is a journey, and it can take time. It is a journey that is unique to each individual. The vision is based on the principles of recovery, which involves helping people to live their lives to the full, despite their mental health problem. Recovery is a process, and it is not always linear. It is a journey, and it can take time. It is a journey that is unique to each individual.

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The emergence of the living into contemporary creation has been a central theme in the history of art and its nature. Having become organic and autonomous, the living has found its place on both the practical and symbolic levels of its exposure to the public, not only in the museum but also in the broader context. Following in the wake of artists who have broken new ground, from Jan van Eyck to Huyghe or Philippe Parreno, conservator Laurent Le Bon has placed the living in a new perspective through the exhibitions *Jardins* and *Le Jardin* at the threshold of the institution, both as a principle, and for the first time, as a practice. The living enters the space of the museum via the history of art, through the history of exhibitions, both connected to the *in situ* and to the “unmoving” image. It is a question of the idea of the screen, the articulation of the fake and the real, the history of the image, the wealth of the imagination and temporal dynamics of the living.

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Being someone who is passionate about gardens, you curated the exhibition

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that took place from March to
July 2017 at the Grand Palais, in Paris.
Paradoxically, at no point did visitors find
themselves in the presence of living plant
life. Would it be an aporia to transform
the living into a museum?

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The exhibition itself is always a
relationship between a concept and
a space. It is at the moment when an
osmosis emerges between a position taken
and a given space, that the chemical
precipitate is formed. There is that
lovely phrase from Orhan Pamuk, “The
exhibition is the moment where time is

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wake of those who, similar to Pierre
Huyghe or Philippe Parreno, have broken
the codes of museography, moving it
closer to cinema or opera.

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Orhan Pamuk, *Le Musée de l'innocence* (Paris :

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exhibition, I would have liked to use the
same principle that I used for

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exhibition that I curated for the Centre
Pompidou in 2005. Right from the first
room there was a framework that offered
a number of possibilities to access the
following rooms. So there were probably
as many paths through the exhibition
as there were visitors, which was my
way of breathing some of the spirit of
Dada into it. I wanted to use a similar
exhibition design process for

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reference to the labyrinth in which one becomes lost and wanders, rather than a botanical garden where one moves from label to label. Because of the structure of the Grand Palais we were obliged to follow a linear path over two floors, which prompted us to tell a story where one's imagination is certainly opened up but where movement is restricted.

The garden by definition is alive, and so there is no room for it in the space of the museum where the temperature

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conditions and humidity are extremely controlled, with the main concern being the preservation of artworks. Rightly or wrongly, no-one responsible for a collection would take the risk of seeing a tiny wood-boring insect degrade an artwork worth several million dollars. On principle the museum leaves the living on

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When entering the Grand Palais,
we leave the real garden behind to move
into the history of its representations,
following a sequence expressed in fifteen
chapters. Yet the living does indeed
make a few appearances, even if it is
only embodied by the visitor who walks
as if in a garden. It is equally present in
front of the entrance with Patrick Blanc's

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a version of his plant
wall that accompanies the beginning of
the visit. But the living stops in a very
symbolic manner at the threshold of the
exhibition and reemerges at the end, in
the work of Wolfgang Laib, an artist who
revolutionized our relationship with art
and nature in the 1970s. While society
was accelerating and in the process of
becoming globalized, he made his way
into fields to collect, one by one, grains
of pollen in an almost zen-like practice
of meditation. He then assembled
them in monochrome squares with an
extraordinary color-metric density. At the
Grand Palais, rather than a large ochre
rug, he chose to place the pollen in two
small pyramids that come to close out the
exhibition with a minimal garden of

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Nevertheless, the living is not systematically absent from the world of the museum. Plants were notably present in the numerous examples of museography in the permanent collection of the 1970s and 80s. For example, when the Centre Pompidou was being opened, Jean-Paul Pigeat, the creator of the International Garden Festival of Chaumont-sur

Loire, had the idea of using the empty terraces of the museum in a similar way to the hanging gardens of Babylon. He was indeed the first person to have imagined creating an exhibition around gardens. The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen is another example of this: the garden-greenhouse, where the

impressionists dialogued with the tropical plants, with the ambition of gathering plants and collections from all over the world together in the same space.

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exhibitions begs the question of
whether the latter isn't ultimately the
diorama of a garden? Perhaps you could
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exhibition as a large
garden, even though it only presents a
small amount of vegetation. It was purely
accidental that I came to be curating
the two exhibitions at the same time in
Paris, and it is even more surprising that
they both deal with the same story. They
are two exhibitions that I would qualify
as impossible, touching upon subjects

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by definition—even though there are
ephemeral gardens, whose “fashionable”
side is open to discussion—and the
diorama itself remains difficult to move
because of its original architecture. The
challenge posed by these two projects
was, as such, very attractive.

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issue was to move through the screen.

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means to “see through.” Summarizing this notion in a few words is a difficult exercise, as it has evolved a lot since it was invented by Louis Daguerre in 1822. A stretched canvas in the beginning, painted on both sides and slightly translucent—in such a way that the variations in light could bring it to life—little by little it was accompanied by three-dimensional elements to create a sort of visual continuity and emphasize the illusion. At the end of the nineteenth century, a new formula appeared in

museums in Nordic countries, with systems for presenting characters and animals in their reconstituted original environment. Three elements make it up: a painted background, often a slightly curved canvas—the reason why we often confuse panorama and diorama; real and artificial elements—sometimes dried plants, sometimes characters made from wax or stuffed animals that make the reconstituted world more concrete; and then, in front of all of this, a display window that creates a frontal aspect and moves the diorama closer to the

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At the Palais de Tokyo, we wanted to show the way in which contemporary artists have taken hold of this concept like a box of dreams, in order to ask a central question: “Are we all inside a huge diorama?”, suggesting that the city and nature that surrounds us could simply be an illusion or a fiction. At the end of the exhibition, the curve of the Palais de Tokyo opens out, the space is bigger, the diorama breaks down and the window is broken. An artwork by Duane Hanson, a hyperrealistic sculptor, represents a painter just on the verge of finishing a painting of an exhibition panel, in such a way that imagination and reality come together to recover something that is perhaps nothing more than an illusion:

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in particular in the

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The second phase of the exhibition, that we could qualify as post-modern, seeks to anchor the garden in the contemporary world, by cutting the large thread of History so as to open up other possibilities. Only representations of real gardens are presented, but the spectator wanders among them as if in a

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Isn't the art of the garden itself a
museumization of nature, in the sense
that it proposes a representation of it, an
organized collection of its subjects within
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Basically, the museum, like the garden, is a place of pleasure and knowledge where body and mind wander. It is what Aragon expressed in this superb phrase: “Everything that is of the mislaid, of the vagabond in the human being, can be reduced to one word: garden.”

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How do you explain the fact that the garden is so topical?

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The notion of heterotopia, forged at

the end of the 1960s by Michel Foucault, gives new importance to space with regard to History. Pamuk, Parreno, Huyghe, and others have revealed the manner in which these two notions are linked to the world of the exhibition. According to Foucault, the heterotopia—a prison, a cemetery, an asylum—is the place of a concrete utopia, bringing together in one space all of the imagination that we can provide. The

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is above all a limit and a threshold to be
crossed, because it represents the place
where everything is possible, is perhaps
the oldest heterotopia. Foucault actually
said: “The garden is the smallest part

of the world and it is the totality of the world.” So, the garden permanently
2 maintains this ambiguous relationship of scales. Whereas Galileo—when he discovered the rotation of the Earth around the Sun—broke down all limits to open up the notion of the infinite, Foucault overturned things and summoned Gaston Bachelard to move the focus toward space. It is undeniable, space carries a notion of imagination and this is the reason why the garden retains its fundamentally

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Michel Foucault, "Dits et écrits 1984, Des es

paces autres," *Architecture, Mouvement, Continuité*, no.

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What is the nature of the imagination
that is carried within the garden?

Every human being can cultivate
his or her own garden, as advocated

by Voltaire. The garden also signifies a particular relationship with time and death that can lend itself to melancholy. But also to abandonment, as Gilles Clément communicates so well by pointing to the macroscopic and by opening up perspectives through interwoven scales. Nevertheless, the garden has tended to become a fashionable thing whose definition is increasingly overused and abused. It is important not to confuse “square meters of more or less artificial lawn” with “ecological revolution.” Even if they bring enthusiasts together and contribute to the universe of the garden, seed parties and other garden festivals that are becoming more and more common are not representative of the passionate complexity of gardens, that seem to me capable of providing us with a different reading of the world. This is

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a wide chronological spectrum, from the Renaissance—a time when “the wall was opened” and when the landscape was integrated—to today, in such a way that one arrives at the fundamental notions of primary and secondary nature.

“Primary nature” covers nature that is preserved from all human contact, while secondary nature is designed by man through agriculture and the landscape. The sixteenth century saw the emergence of the concept of a third nature as the osmosis between nature and culture, halfway between the first two. It is exciting to see to what extent these three “natures” are now indivisible. This obviously began with the presentation of America’s national parks as spaces of primitive nature rather than constructions. It was basically a question of transforming the United States into a huge garden by

applying the matrix of Central Park on the scale of the whole country.

But to come back to what is carried within the garden, what better way than to use Gilles Clément's expression, when he defines it as a "mental territory of hope." He says poetically: "To make

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a garden one needs a piece of ground and eternity." Here we can find the whole of the temporal dynamic of the garden, something that also brings us closer to the museum. The instant and eternity are in effect the two pillars of the museum, whereas the short time of the contemplation of an artwork combines the temporalities of creation and the collection of humanity's wealth over centuries. The relationship with the curiosity cabinet also seems obvious, in particular when one considers that they both appeared at the moment that nature and culture were becoming tied to one another. If the garden has remained so fascinating to us, it is because it

symbolizes spatially the moment of the dream, the place where imagination comes to chemically plunge.

The garden accumulates layers of time that overlap, through latin—which is still the language used in botany

and the ideas of conservation and of disappearance. The largest garden in the world, a dry garden, can be found in the Natural History Museum in Paris.

And the person responsible for it is Marc Janson, co-curator of the

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exhibition. The Paris Herb Garden gathers together the largest collection of plants in the world: tens of millions of plants that have disappeared are inventoried there. It is a vertiginous

feeling when one realizes the extent of
what has disappeared but also of what is

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· Gilles Clément, *Thomas et le voyageur* (Paris:

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We are lucky to be part of a generation that discovered the Chauvet cave, the origin of the evolution of our relationship with time. The frescos discovered on the cave walls effectively sit in opposition to the linear representations of the latter. This cave is sometimes described as the first gesture of Land Art, 35,000 years ago, as the choice of this site would have been determined by the landscape of the valley below and the structure of the natural arch. Just like that of the term garden, the etymology

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, the French word
for landscape, is a little strange and
mysterious. Some think that it is a
contraction of the words

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(face). Giuseppe Penone actually
compares the cave to the interior of a
skull onto which we project images of the
surrounding landscape and of those who

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It is also said that the landscape is what
we remember after closing our eyes.

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It is indeed a superb definition because the perception of the landscape, like the garden, is eminently connected to memory. We could think of the work of Frances Yates and others around art and memory. Penone defined the garden as the moment when we take our first step, the instant of crossing a threshold that opens up a pathway. It is this which marks the beginning of creative landscaping—to use Horace Walpole's term—which creates the link between the gardener and the artist. The garden is poly-sensorial, to the extent that it is perhaps the only truly synesthetic work of art: calling on one's sense of smell, vision, hearing, taste, and touch, as certain gardens are made up only of bark. The garden is an exciting world, like the landscape, that Michel Collot⁴ sought to define through that marvelous word: horizon. What is the horizon? That of a tiny parcel of the world

or of its totality? Once again, we are left with the question of heterotopia.

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Michel Collot, *L'Horizon fabuleux* (Paris: José
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Milieux intérieurs / Interior Environments

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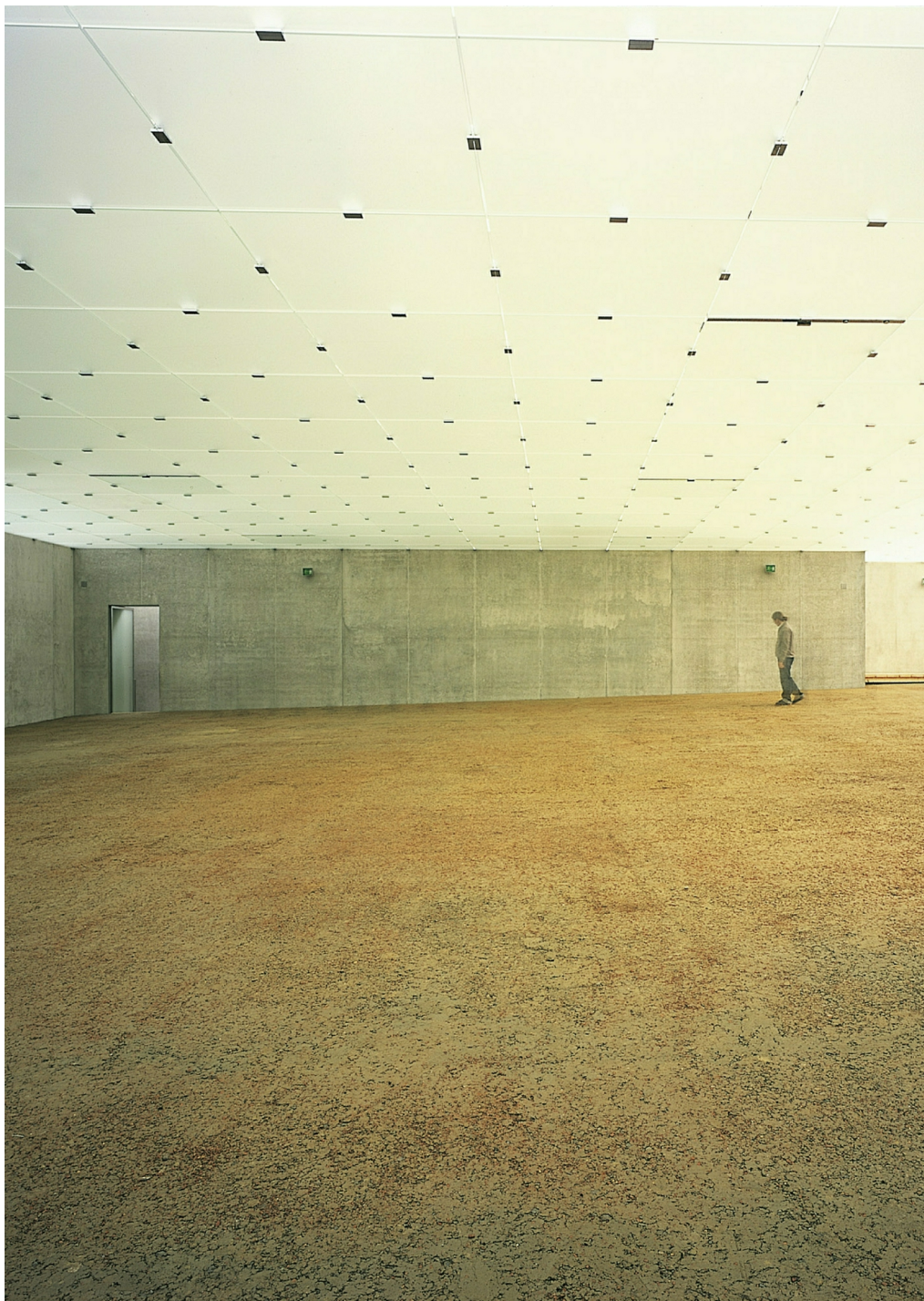
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Designed in collaboration with the landscape

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dialogues with the architecture of Pether
through sequences of interior landscapes
on the four floors of the museum, disturbing
formal rigor of the building. The spectator
that transforms the museum into a “vision
one’s senses and thinking through a variety
sensorial experiences; the vital odors, colors
constantly evolving, calling upon perceptual
perception of the real and the artificial.

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Conçue en collaboration avec le paysagiste

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dialogue avec l'architecture de Pether Zu
séquences de paysages intérieurs reconst
du musée, bousculant la rigueur géométr
Le spectateur est plongé dans un parcours
en « machine de vision » et défie les sens et
d'atmosphères et d'expériences sensoriel
ou textures vivantes évoluent sans cesse, i
perceptive et notre perception du réel et de

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Milieux intérieurs/ Interior Environments





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musée en un paysage fluvial composé de to
paysage accidenté que le spectateur trave

l'eau, des senteurs et de la texture de la terre devient prépondérante, son interaction plonge l'œuvre par ses mouvements. L'espace d'expérience d'un paysage condensé radicalement artificiel. La dimension immersive tout à la fois une expérience et la prise con

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builds nature, transforming a whole wing into a river landscape made up of tons of landscape that the spectator crosses through the sound of water, smells, and the texture of the artwork. The spectator becomes preponderant, their presence transforming the artwork through their movement. The space becomes a center for experimenting in a radically artificial environment. The installation creates both an experience

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met en jeu les notions de temps, de
paysage et de mouvement par un empilem

à l'échelle d'une pièce, recréant une portion
celui des champs d'obsidienne des hauts p
à l'artiste. La perception de l'espace est af
spectateur, ses mouvements participant a
et brillant de la roche volcanique. Ces stim
associés à la puissance visuelle tellurique
frontières entre réalité et représentation,
entre la connaissance et l'expérience du v

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involves notions of time, landscape,
and movement through the piles of obsidian
room, recreating a section of volcanic land
fields of the high plateaus of Iceland that a
The perception of space is affected by the
their movements participate in the reflect
dark and brilliant black of the volcanic ro

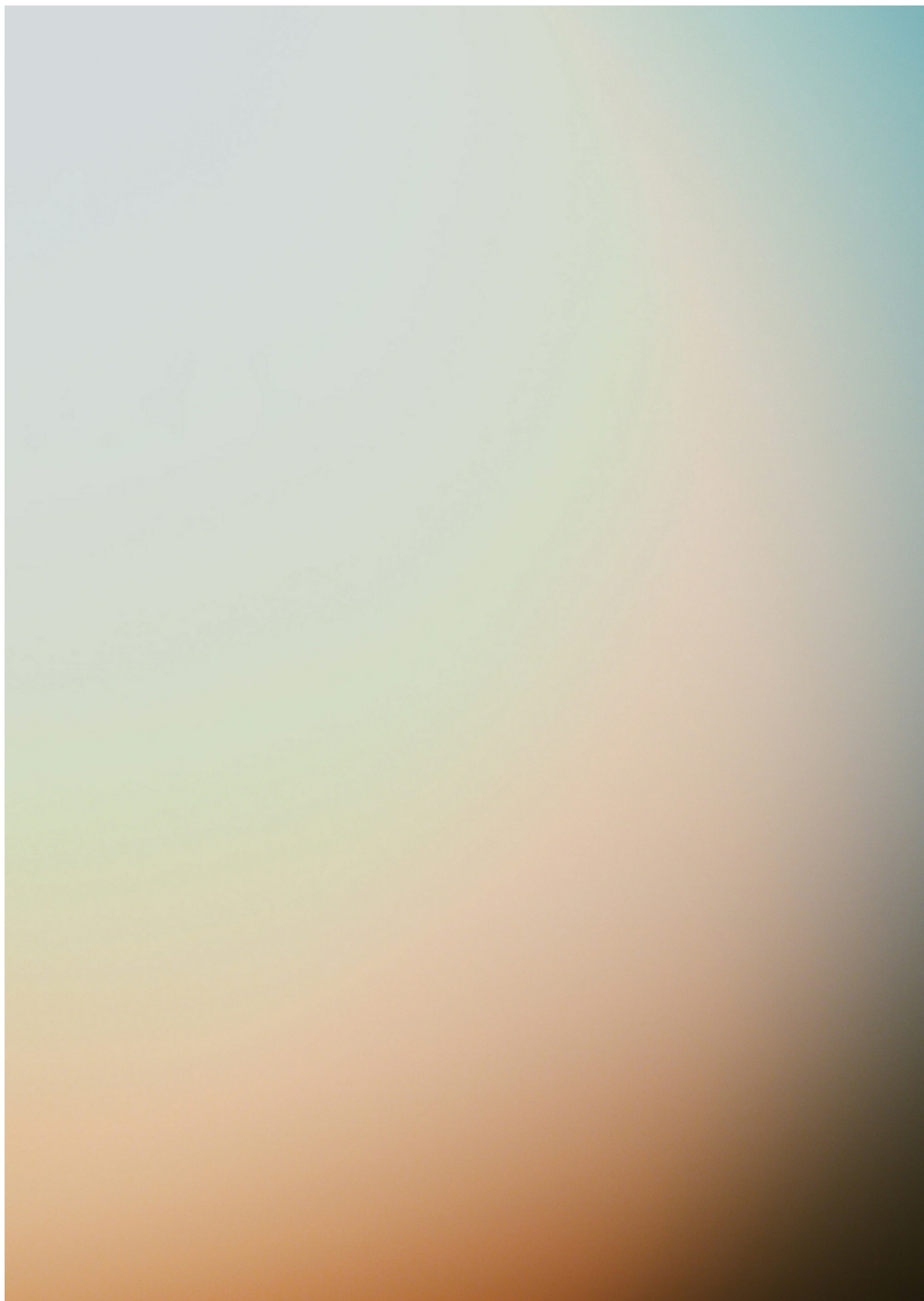
stimuli, associated with the telluric visual
the boundaries between reality and repre
contradiction between knowledge of, and

Milieux intérieurs/ Interior Environments

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La Vallée von Uexküll

les vidéastes Fabien Giraud et Raphaël Siboni cherchent à retranscrire les perceptions ou des focales non-humaines: au fil des avancées technologiques, un coucher de soleil dans le désert australien sans bloc optique.

With their series La Vallée von Uexküll, filmmakers Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni explore perceptions: as technology continues to develop, they travel regularly to capture non-human focal points: along with technological advances, a sunset in the Australian desert without optical block.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health service has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the efficiency of the health service, and to ensure that the health service is able to meet the needs of the population. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999. These initiatives have led to a number of changes in the way the health service is organised and managed, and to a number of changes in the way the health service is funded.

One of the main challenges facing the health service is the need to improve the efficiency of the service, and to ensure that the service is able to meet the needs of the population. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Service Act 1990, the Health Service Act 1997, and the Health Service Act 1999. These initiatives have led to a number of changes in the way the health service is organised and managed, and to a number of changes in the way the health service is funded.

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ouvrage dans lequel l'art, comme
prisme de lecture, vous permet de battre en brè

l'acception dominante d'un rapport anthropoc
la Renaissance. Quel a été le point de départ de

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Le point de départ date de l'exposition de Pierre L
en 2013, recommandée par mon ami Judicaël Lav

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déclare que les lectures de Bruno Latour ou de Qu

s'efforce de penser un « monde sans l'homme » – l'o

ont été des confirmations de ses intuitions. Cela m

s'en est suivi un deuxième déclic, presque au mêm

après ma thèse de doctorat, du

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celui-ci parle d'«univers sans l'homme» et de «na

voulu retracer la généalogie de cette idée, ou plus que les artistes s'en font.

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Vous identifiez trois « moments », trois « drames » historiquement l'émergence des grands mouvements. Comment ces ruptures s'expriment-elles artistiquement ?

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En 1755, un tremblement de terre ravage Lisbonne, tue des milliers de victimes en deux jours. Cet horrible événement est interprété de deux manières : d'un côté, une interprétation conflictuelle : d'un côté, la lecture traditionnelle, celle

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tenue par l'Église – parle d'un châtiment divin, sanctionnant la débauche de la ville ; de l'autre, une vision rationnelle et éclairée, portée par les Lumières. Kant, déplore un drame issu d'une contingence, ou

Dieu pour punir les hommes, mais se meut en méco
ceux-ci. La deuxième partie du XVIII

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siècle va voir s'amplifier des scènes de
catastrophes à l'état pur, donnant naissance à un

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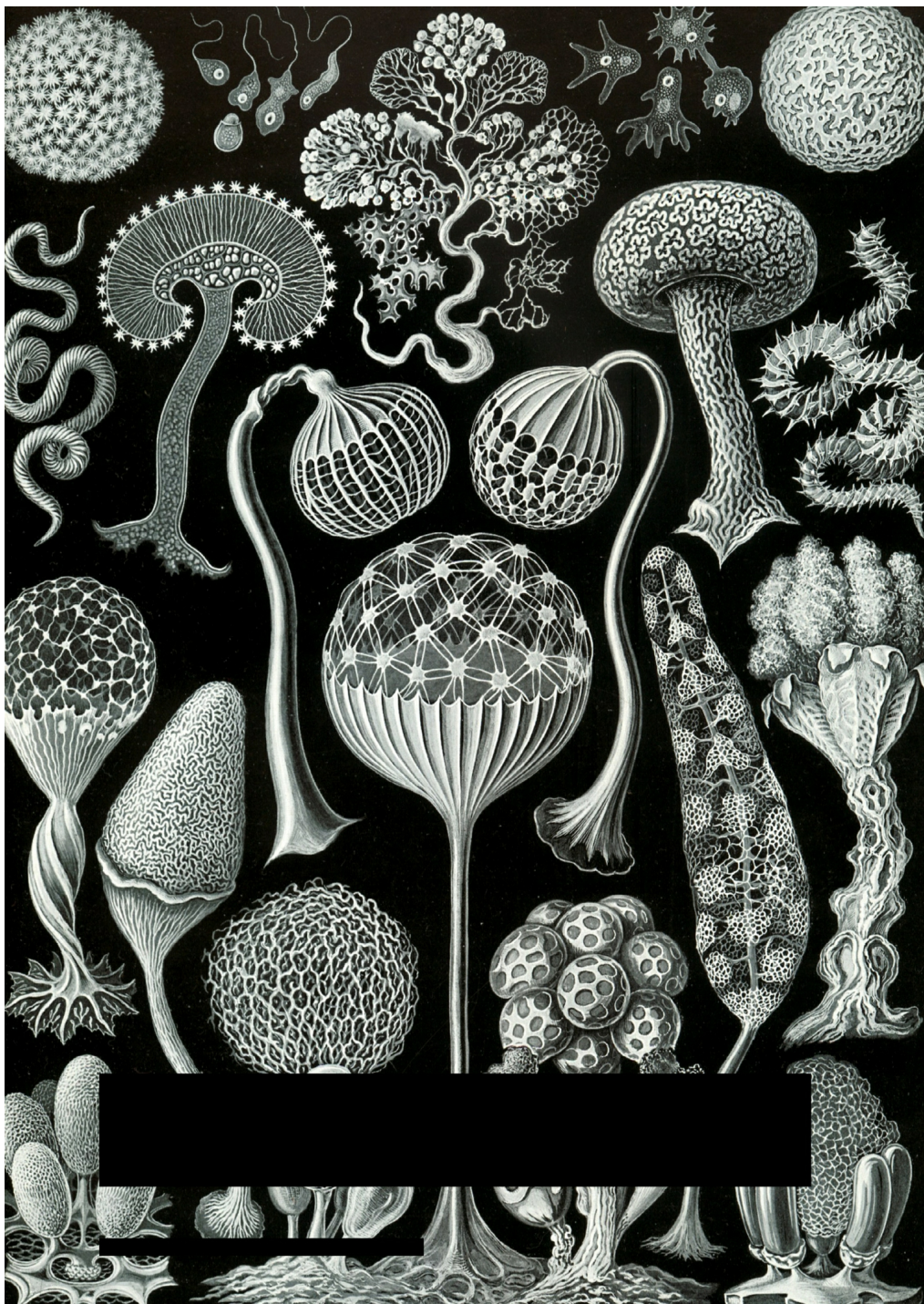
Mary Shelley ou dans les écrits de Saint-Simon, c'est là que se profile une terreur moderne : la fin de l'espèce. C'en est terminé de la coïncidence entre disparition et fin de l'Histoire. L'Homme pourrait n'être plus là, et po

Ce que je montre dans la première partie du livre, vision anthropocritique, il y a de surcroît une prom

—

les animaux, les végétaux et même les « choses », s
Barbizoniens, à Rosa Bonheur, à Victor Hugo ou
elle aussi au nivellement de la place de l'Homme à
C'est alors qu'en 1860, dans le prolongement du s
scandaleux – de Darwin et de son essai sur l'origi
le raccourci mental qui désigne l'Homme comme
traumatisme des origines brise définitivement la
de l'Humanité, réduite alors à une instance incon
Je pense qu'on doit considérer les esthétiques de l
biologiques, physiques et mécaniques du Symbol
amplifications, inquiètes ou exaltées, imprégnée





Août 1945 sonne évidemment un troisième choc. L'atome, par l'arme atomique, se profile le risque de l'apocalypse. Les artistes vont donner de nombreuses formes picturales et cinématographiques, souvent très anxiogènes – j'en cite quelques-unes.

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, l'excellent film de Stanley Kramer (d'après un roman de Leonid Brejnev) en 1959 – à cette potentielle éradication. La fragilité humaine n'est pas seulement un motif, mais je dirais aussi une

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artistique. Et ce n'est plus
la violence aveugle de la nature contre l'Homme
mais la chaîne de conséquences incertaines émanant
l'Homme contre la nature, devenue une nature son-
fascinant et très stimulant pour les artistes de la s-
Anthropocène, où l'anthropocentrisme parvenu
précisément ce point-limite après lequel a lieu l'A

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Vous parlez de « dilution cosmique » pour exprimer
humaine du Symbolisme au Surréalisme et jusqu'à
du robot. En quoi un rapport renouvelé au vivant
l'homme vers l'abstraction ?

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Je dois d'abord rappeler une évidence : il n'y a pas

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, qui connaissent à la fois une intensité
différente de récusation de la figure, et qui empruntent
théoriques très diverses. Dès lors que l'essentiel a été dit
la perception humaine – ni l'accès aux structures
à ses déploiements cosmiques les plus étourdissants –
la peinture s'engage dans un tout autre désir : plonger
vaciller les échelles de nos représentations de l'univers
humaine essuie un double KO : parce que la figure humaine
que les formes qui s'y substituent sur la toile rappellent
perception est horriblement limitée. Mais les choses changent
peintres ambitionnent, par cette rupture avec les conventions
d'une part leur intériorité et, d'autre part, de concevoir la
création d'un « homme nouveau » ! Bref, chassez les autres
au galop... Et Motherwell de parler de

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On ne peut bien sûr éluder les aventures de l'abstr

généalogies du concept d'« Univers sans l'homme »
des artistes abstraits assez timides au fond, comme
redoutaient d'aller trop loin. Je crois que pour des
Fontana, Klein et bien d'autres, l'abstraction doit être
émancipateur de la condition humaine. Cette condition
de la gravité. Gravité physique qui nous cloue au sol
destin de mortel. Chez ces trois artistes au moins,
explicite – et complètement fantasmatique, évidente
l'expérience de l'œuvre à cette double gravité, d'empêcher
les faire léviter au-delà des contingences de l'Humain
cosmique de l'être. Je me rappelle un passage de l'œuvre
Clark, dans son très classique ouvrage sur

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de Botticelli. Il procède à un court commentaire s
et, plus encore, sur celle des allégories du vent à g
ces ascensions divines, ces essors corporels, il y a

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Clark l'expression d'une puissante émancipation

À titre personnel, je trouve une continuité significa

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Pouvez-vous ajouter un mot sur le tableau abstrait
livre, cette toile de Hans Hartung de 1986, consi
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est une des œuvres les plus
exceptionnelles de la seconde partie du XX^e siècle.
Hartung à la fin de sa vie, à l'aide de la pulvérisation
d'une projection – avec une tyrolienne – de peinture

la rugosité d'un crépi, et de tonalités beaucoup plus
illusion de relief presque satellitaire. À cela s'ajoutent
des effacements, notamment dans la partie supérieure
d'une espèce de brosse ou d'éponge. Cette œuvre, faite
d'une multiplicité de dimensions qui la rend à la fois
l'aspect minéral et rudimentaire des choses lointaines,
qualité anticipatoire, car l'on croit deviner les images
Google Earth vingt ans avant leur apparition et pour les
spectateurs à son contact, il y a une sorte de visage.
Un télescopage d'échelles spatiales et temporelles
est vraiment capable en peinture.

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Vous faites également allusion au mouvement
performances, considérés dans leur ensemble
de l'Humain, puisqu'il peut s'agir de faire corps
perdre. Vous avez par ailleurs vous-même expé-

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Memoriam : 10 ans/10 heures

, en prenant le contre-pied de la « disparition »
et en plongeant dans les tréfonds de votre mémoire.

sensations, d'émotions et d'événements, était-
et vivant? Quel était l'objectif de cette démarche?

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Je n'ai jamais songé que les quelques performances
des cadres très confidentiels, au Générateur (le C
particulièrement liées à mes recherches intellect

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, le protocole était celui d'un isolement assez verti
soi-même. Sans avoir répété, sans note ni suppor
temporel et sans public – pendant les cinq premiè
parlais à une caméra –, je m'étais fixé de raconter
à minuit, les 10 dernières années de ma vie en m'e
je le pouvais de respecter un ordre chronologique
en était « l'objectif » ; je peux en revanche vous cer
pendant les mois qui ont précédé, sincèrement pe
j'en suis sorti un peu changé...

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était à sa manière une quête du vivant : de façon co
il s'agissait de réveiller et vérifier ce qui vit en soi.
qu'un exercice brut de la mémoire est capable de s
corporelles, affectives. Plus singulièrement, il s'a



Artiste majeur de la scène contemporaine, Loris Gréaud a entrepris un documentaire, le récit filmé d'un concert pour les organismes des profondeurs à activité bioluminescente. Il confia la création de cette musique au collectif *The Snorks*. *A major contemporary artist, with The Snorks, an ambiguous project, endeavored to film a concert for deep-sea organisms, with the music stimulated by the Antipop Consortium to create the music.*

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individuelle de capacités mnémoniques d'un orga
des machines. Je ne suis pas dupe : ce que nous app

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pour des ordinateurs ne relève pas des mêmes cat
à titre personnel, je suis taraudé par ce sentiment

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masse d'informations les machines sont capables

en comparaison de mes propres capacités... Con
suis, à quel point j'oublie vite, est désolant et – je le

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Cette performance avait, à mon petit niveau, quel
Je mesure à quel point elle est modeste, sinon déri
ou font encore Robert Smithson, Bas Jan Ader, R
Francis Alys, Abraham Poincheval et d'autres. C
protocoles d'aventure, dans des cadres naturels q
et leur œuvre est tendue entre une réaffirmation d
et le respect d'un concept, puis par sa réalisation
dans des environnements qui les dépassent, les m
Voilà des artistes qui mettent l'

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En tant qu'historien, vous vous tournez vers le
pencher sur le présent. Alors que notre société
«culte de la personnalité», d'individualisme et
que l'humanité poursuit exponentiellement sa
sont aujourd'hui les signes artistiques renvoyant

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Jene prétends en effet jamais, dans mon livre, que
majoritairement celui d'un « Univers sans l'homme »
que beaucoup d'excellents artistes – et, pour tout dire,
intuitivement des récits alter-nombrilistes du monde.
Ristelhueber sur la guerre, par exemple. De manière

très frappé par la façon dont la culture populaire
l'Humain. Il faudrait parler à mon sens d'une épo

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The Zombie survival Guide
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cinéma (les films de Roland Emmerich...) et, plus
pléthore de titres – toujours plus ingénieux – sorte

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En ouverture, nous voudrions vous soumettre l'
Maeterlinck en 1890: «L'être humain sera-t-il
une projection de formes symboliques ou un être
sans avoir la vie?»

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En fait, quand Maeterlinck pose cette question, il cherche à renouveler totalement les formes. Il incarne une entreprise artistique passionnante, sur laquelle il a bâti celle d'une scène sans acteur, possible laboratoire. La littérature et le cinéma de science-fiction rego



pouvoir parler de tout, je n'ai pas cité dans mon es

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d'Adolfo Bioy Casares (1940), mais il y propose u
sur une île, un savant invente un système qui enreg
comportements de touristes puis les retranscrit a
d'hologrammes, de sorte qu'un narrateur exilé et
individus, tombant même amoureux d'une femme

peut-être cela le plus vertigineux quand on songe
les êtres humains ont eu une telle propension à se
telle qualité d'illusion, que leurs ombres projetées
peintures... – pourraient « survivre » pendant des
la vie humaine. Il resterait alors seulement des sig
sans plus personne pour conceptualiser ce qu'est

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1. Thomas Schlessier, *L'Univers sans l'homme – les arts contre l'anth*

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N.D.E.

Voir

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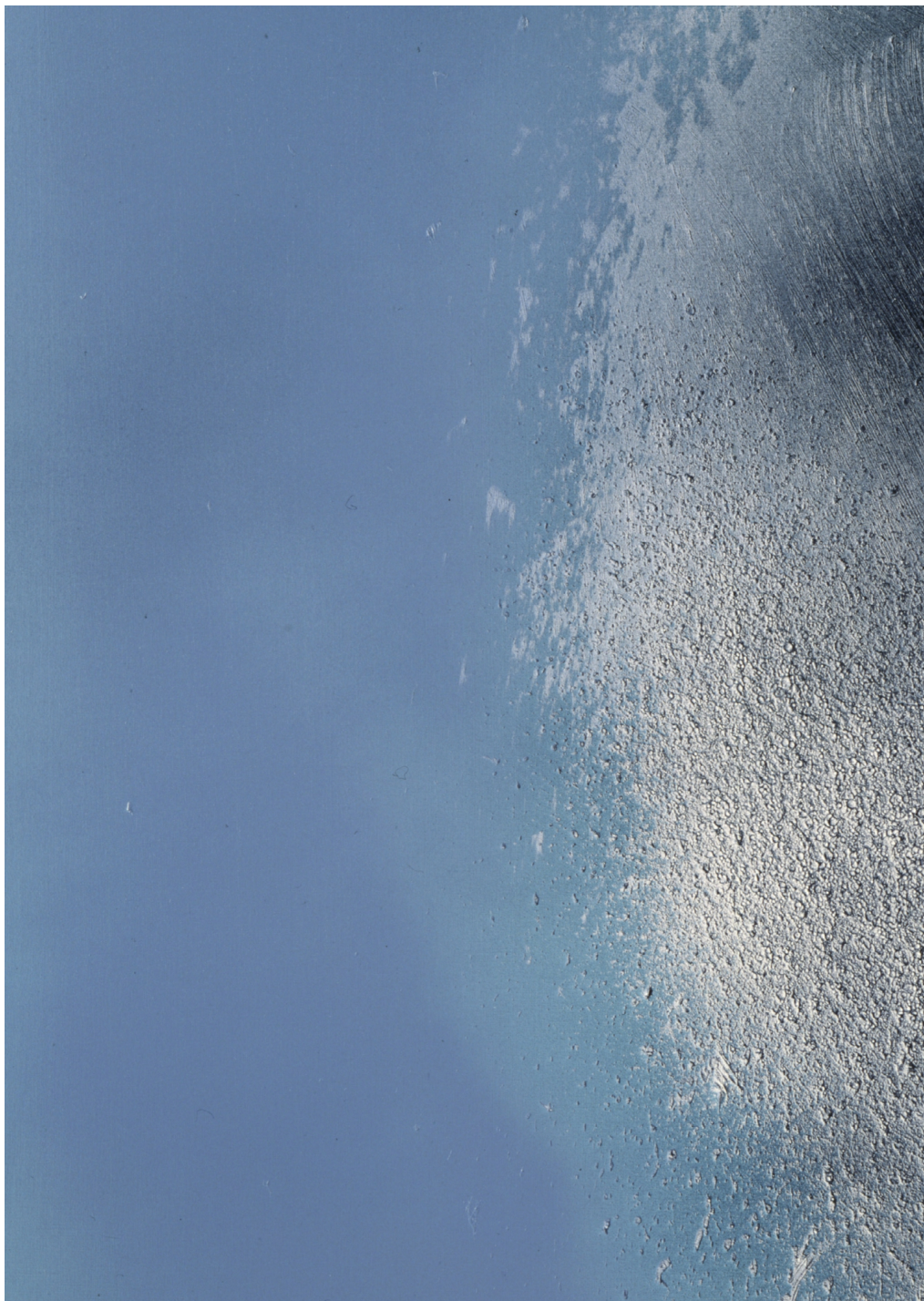
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PCA éditions, Paris, 2013.

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The Nude, an Essay in Ideal Form, conférences de 1953, publiée en

mière traduction française en 1969 chez Hachette.





the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, women made up 40% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 50%. This increase in the number of women in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of women in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, people with disabilities made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people with disabilities in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people with disabilities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, people from ethnic minorities made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower social classes. In 1980, people from the lower social classes made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from the lower social classes in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower social classes in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower income groups. In 1980, people from the lower income groups made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from the lower income groups in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower income groups in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower education levels. In 1980, people from the lower education levels made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from the lower education levels in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower education levels in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower health status. In 1980, people from the lower health status made up 1% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 3%. This increase in the number of people from the lower health status in the public sector has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower health status in the workforce.

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In your book the use of art as an interpre

tive lens enables you to dispel, or at least
to qualify, the mainstream understanding

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relationship with the world since the
Renaissance. What was the starting point
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The starting point goes back to Pierre Huyghe's exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in 2013, which was recommended to me by my friend Judicaël Lavrador. In an interview, Huyghe¹ declared that his readings of Bruno Latour and Quentin Meillassoux—who endeavors to imagine a “world without humans”—didn't only interest him but also confirmed his intuitions. I was particularly intrigued by this and, almost at the same time, rereading the part of

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See
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interview
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Philippe

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and Éric Troncy in *Stream 03: Inhabiting the
Anthropocene* (Paris: PCA Editions, 2013) Ed.

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talks about “the universe without man”
and “nature without man,” ten years after
my PhD dissertation, something was
triggered in my mind. I then decided to
trace the genealogy of this idea or, more

accurately, of the representations that artists form of it.

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You identify three “moments” or “tragedies” that would historically explain the emergence of the great modern movements. How are these disruptions expressed in artistic terms?

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In 1755, an earthquake devastated Lisbon and claimed several tens of thousands of victims over the course of two days. There were two conflicting interpretations of this horrible event: on

one side, the conventional providentialist
reading of the event, held by the Church,

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Though contemporary philosophy, faced with global issues, has questioned man's place in the world—which has been dominant in modern thought—Thomas Schless

Thomas Schlesser brings nuance to the common idea of a strict divide between man and the world, visible in artistic creation since the early 20th century. He sees within them an expression of a form of leveling out of the scale of the living. Human fragility thus constitutes both a challenge and a resource, particularly within popular culture. By analyzing a "cosmic" history at the heart of historical avant-gardes and of abstractions, through the lens of Art movements, Schlesser reveals an art racked by the disaster of the 20th century, claiming that art has mainly become a "universe without man."

that the most interesting artists are those who intuitively pr
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speaks of divine retribution which is beneficial to men; on the other side, a rational and enlightened vision, held by Voltaire and Kant for instance, laments a tragedy that stems from a contingency and states that nature isn't moved by God's spirit to punish men, but rather is an impersonal force that is indifferent to their fate. During the rest of the eighteenth century, a great number of major disasters occurred, giving rise to an eschatology that could be described a

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by Mary Shelley, or in the writings of Saint-Simon among other examples. There looms a modern terror: that of an end to the human species that would arise independently from the end of space itself. Gone is the coincidence of the passing of mankind and the dissipation of history: man could be gone and yet, history would carry on. What I make clear in the first part of my book is that, at the same time as this “anthropocritic” vision, there is also a promotion of annex spheres

animals, plants, and even “things,” if we consider for example the Barbizon school, Rosa Bonheur, Victor Hugo, or Jules Michelet—that also participates in the

leveling of humankind's place in the

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In 1860, then appeared the mental
shortcut that designates man as descended
from the ape, following the eminently
outrageous success of Darwin's

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. The narcissistic wound regarding the origins of man conclusively demolishes the fixed and unshakable representation of humankind, thereby reduced to an inconstant and temporary instance. I think we must consider the aesthetics of hybridization and the biological, physical, and mechanical speculations of symbolism or futurism as amplifications—either concerned or exalted—that are permeated with this new paradigm.

In August 1945 comes another moment of shock. Einstein himself declared that atomic weaponry “threaten[s] the continued existence of mankind.” Artists will produce many visual, literary, cinematic expressions of this potential eradication, and often very disturbing

ones—I am thinking in particular of

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, Nevil Shute's excellent
1959 novel. The fragility of humankind
becomes not only a motif but I would also

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. And the problem
isn't nature's random violence against
man anymore but the chain of uncertain
consequences stemming from the telluric
action of humankind against nature,
which is now the one that suffers. Hence
a fascinating and stimulating paradox for
the artists of the contemporary art scene:
"The chasm of the Anthropocene, where
anthropocentrism, which had just reached
its full vigor, peaks precisely at that cut

off point after which the Apocalypse

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You mention a “cosmic dilution” to express the dissolution of the human figure from Symbolism to Surrealism and all the way up to the emergence of the figure of the robot. How could the renewed relationship to the living and to the scale of things direct

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which both experience a different
intensity in the disqualification of the
figure and that borrow from very different
technical and theoretical avenues. From
the point when the essential seemed
beyond the reach of human perception

we are allowed neither the access to the
infinitesimal structures of reality, nor
the access to its most stunning cosmic

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another longing altogether: to plunge into the invisible and make the scales of our representations of the universe waver.

The illusion of human centrality suffers a double knockout: not only is the human figure expelled but the forms that act as a surrogate on the canvas remind humans that their perception is terribly limited.

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Things are getting more complicated, however. Many painters have been inspired by this break with human scales to have the ambition both to relate their inner life and to support the creation of a “new man” through the use of abstraction. In short, one form of anthropocentrism is replaced by another; hence Motherwell’s quip regarding the “Humanism of abstraction” during a famous lecture that

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We obviously cannot elude the adventures of abstraction when we study the genealogies of the concept of the “universe without man.” But I found most artists to be fairly shy deep down, as if a majority of them were afraid of going

too far. I think that for artists such as Malevich, Fontana, Klein, and many others, abstraction should rather be thought of as an emancipating airlock of the human condition. This condition—our condition—is one of gravity. The physical gravity that nails us to the ground, but also the moral gravity in the face of our mortal destiny. For these three artists at least, abstraction has the explicit

and, obviously, completely fantasized

ambition to tear the spectators experiencing the artwork away from these two gravities, to elevate the mind and the body, and to make them levitate beyond the contingencies of humanity in a sort of cosmic dilution of being. I remember a passage written by the art historian Kenneth Clark in his classic essay,

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, where he discusses Botticelli's

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. He proceeds to briefly
comment on the levitation of Venus and
then expands on the allegorical figures on
the left of the painting that represent the
winds. In these divine ascensions, these
corporal assumptions, Kenneth Clark is
already seeing signs of the expression of a
powerful emancipation beyond the human

condition. I personally see a meaningful
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Kenneth
Clark,
*The
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(New York: Pantheon, 1956).

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Can you say a word about the abstract
painting that is used as a cover for your
book, an artwork painted by Hans Har

tung in 1986 that is held in the Founda

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is one of the most exceptional

artworks of the second half of the twentieth century. It was painted by Hans Hartung at the end of his life and features an airbrushed blue background, a projection of uneven accumulations of grayish painting rendered with a Tyrolean flicker gun, and much darker tones that give an illusion of relief that is almost satellite-like. In addition, there are a few traces, including some erasures in the upper part of the canvas, where we can discern the passage of a sort of brush or sponge. Though the artwork itself is very simple, it has many aspects to it. This makes it both obvious and complex. It has the crude and mineral aspect of distantly archaic things and a strange anticipatory quality to it because it seems as if it represents the dehumanizing images of Google Earth twenty years before they came into being. Finally, there is a sort of face that petrifies and fades out, or at least that is how some spectators experience it. This artwork is a telescoping of spatial and temporal scales

that could only be achieved in painting by
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You also hint at the Situationist
movement, Land Art, and Performance

art, which are considered as a whole as
being a form of disappearance of the
human given that the idea is to feel at one
with the environment and to lose ourselves
in it. Incidentally, you have even
experimented with performance yourself,

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going against the “disappearance” and
plunging into the depths of your indivi

dual recollections. Was remembering

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sensations, emotions, and events a way of
feeling alive and experiencing your indivi

duality? What was your objective?

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performances I conducted in very intimate

settings at the Générateur (Gentilly's art center) as being particularly related to my scholarly research. But indeed, in

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, the protocol was one of a
staggering confinement within oneself.

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kind of material, had no time reference
and no audience at all—during the five
first hours at least, when I was speaking
to a video camera. I set out to tell the
story of the past ten years of my life,
without indulging in any break, from
2 p.m. to midnight. It would be hard to
say what the “objective” was. I can assure
you however that I was initially—over the
preceding months—sincerely afraid that
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changed by the experience.

10ans/10heures

was, in its own way,
a quest for the living. In a conventional
way, the idea was to awaken and to
verify what lives within us through
memory but also what a basic memory
exercise is capable of triggering in terms
of corporal and affective recollections.
More significantly, it was also an
individual assertion of the mnemonic
capacities of a human organism in the
face of those of machines. I am not a
fool: what we call

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do not fall into the
same categories. At a personal level
however, I am crippled by this sense of

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The Obsolescence of Man:

what a prodigious wealth of information
machines can store—whole universes

compared to my own capacities. Being a
historian, establishing how fast I forget
is distressing and, once again, truly

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At my own small level, there was
something extreme in this performance.

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compared to what Robert Smithson, Bas Jan Ader, Richard Long, Piero Golia, Francis Alys, Abraham Poincheval, and others have done or are still doing. These artists set adventure protocols in natural, and sometimes hostile, settings and their work runs along the tense line between a reassertion of their humanity—as they choose and abide by a concept, and then bring it to its physical realization—and its dissolution in environments that extend beyond them, that threaten them and bring them down. Those are truly artists

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the human element at a distance

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As a historian, you look into the past but must also examine the present. At a time when our society has reached all-time highs in terms of the cult of personality, individualism, and the dissemination of its icon, and as humanity exponentially conti

nues to pursue its quest for omnipotence, which artistic signs return individuals back to their insignificant and inconse

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Indeed, at no point do I suggest in my book that art has predominantly become that of a “universe without man.” I am convinced however that many excellent artists—and, indeed, the best of them—intuitively present “alter-navel-gazing” narratives of the world. Sophie Ristelhueber’s works on war for instance. More generally, I am astounded by the way popular culture capitalizes on the fragility of humans. In my opinion, we should be talking about an age that is permeated by the “survival

industry,” which is expressed through
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The Zombie Survival Guide
by Max Brooks for instance), comic
books (Hajime Isayama’s chilling manga,
The Attack on Titan
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Emmerich's movies) and, more than
ever, video games, with a multitude of
new, ever more ingenious titles which are
released each year

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Maurice Maeterlinck raised the following question back in 1890: “Will the human being be replaced by shadow, a reflection, a projection of symbolic forms, or a being who would appear to be alive without being alive?” How would you answer that

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Actually, when Maeterlinck asked that question, he was thinking about theater, the forms of which he was trying to radically renew. He thereby initiated a fascinating artistic endeavor, which raises so many issues that have yet to be properly investigated: that of a scene with no actor. This is indeed a potential laboratory for a “universe without man.”

Science-fiction literature and cinema have routinely tapped that idea. Since I couldn't discuss everything in my essay,

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it has a very similar idea. It is the story of a scientist on an island who invents a system that records the movements and behavior of tourists and then renders them with the illusory precision of holograms,

eventually causing an exiled, isolated narrator to believe that he is seeing real individuals, and even to fall in love with a woman who is in fact dead. That may be what is most staggering when we consider the “universe without man”: human beings have had such a tendency to depict themselves, and with such a quality of illusion, that their projected

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paintings—could “survive” for thousands
of years after human life itself disappears.
All that would then remain are only signs
of the human but with no-one left to
conceptualize what that is; not a promise,
nor even a sign.





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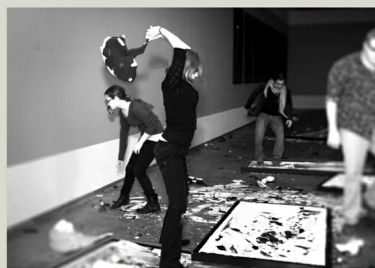
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«L'exposition programmée en février 2018 à la gale
du dernier volet de la «trilogie» conçue par l'artiste l

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se sont développés dans de prestigieuses institutions

(Paris), à la ICA (Londres), à la Kunsthalle de Sankt
encore au Dallas Contemporary museum et ont permis
tout à fait particulière.

L'exposition à la Galerie Max Hetzler sera ainsi le point
de ce triptyque tout juste révélé, qui se prolongera dans
Broad Museum (East-Lansing USA), au Musée de la
Kunsthalle de Darmstadt (Allemagne) pour arriver

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“The exhibition opening in February 2018 at the Gallery
preface to the final volume of the “trilogy” that has been

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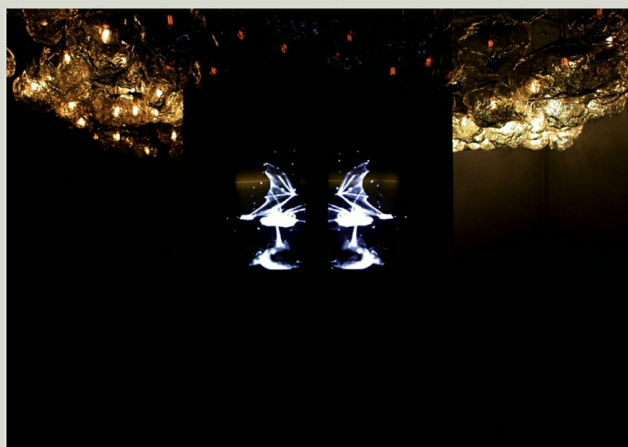
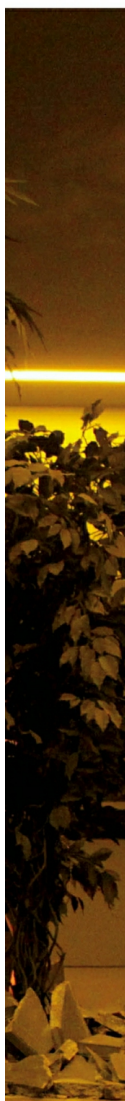
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developed in prestigious institutions, including the I
the Kunsthalle of Sankt Gallen, the Kunsthalle of V
museum, allowing the artist to establish a very parti
The exhibition at the Galerie Max Hetzler will be the
movement of this triptych that has only just recently
prolonged in an exceptional program at the MSU Br
at the Hermitage Museum (Saint Petersburg), and a







Fondation Casa Wabi (dont l'architecture exceptionnelle)
Puerto Escondido (Mexique), où un étrange parc de
le nouveau bâtiment mitoyen de l'atelier Cellar Door
(1923 – 2016) sera dévoilé : entre bunker et mausolée
Cellar Door s'attachait à répondre à la problématique
The Unplayed Notes s'interrogeait sur le mouvement
elles ; cette fois, c'est l'idée de leur destination qui vie
for a Solipsism (2008-2020) est un ensemble ambitie
fascinant que singulier. Lait noir, chant des étoiles n
viendront notamment rythmer le prélude donné par

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NB: MSU Broad Museum, exposition dont le commissariat a été
(Dimitri Ozerkov); Kunsthalle de Darmstadt (Leon Krempel); F

to ultimately arrive at its destination on the grounds
exceptional architecture was created by Tadao Ando
a strange sculpture park will be inaugurated. Simultaneously
the Cellar Door studio, designed with architect Claudio
somewhere between a bunker and a mausoleum of the

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sought to address the issue of the place for work and

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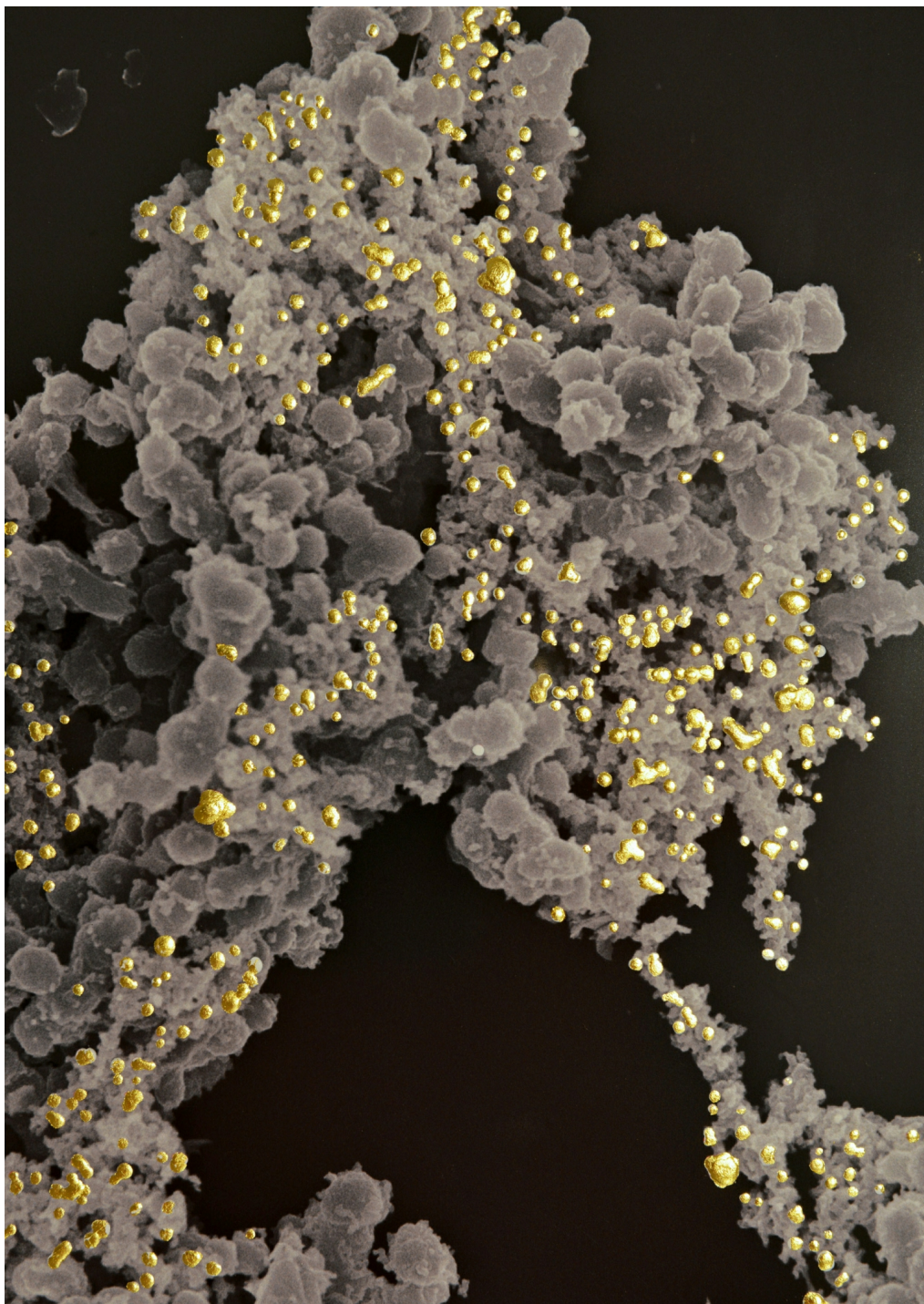
questions the movement of artworks and the space they occupy. In this time, it is the idea of their destination that comes to the fore.

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for a Solipsism (2008–2020)

is an ambitious collection whose final instalment promises a painting that will be as fascinating as it will be singular. The secrets, silence, and disappearances will notably bring to the fore the EXHIBITION at the Max Hetzler Gallery.”

NB: MSU Broad Museum, an exhibition curated by Marc-Olivier Friedmann; Kunsthalle Darmstadt (Leon Krempel); the Casa Wabi Foundation





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Art et agentivité à l'heure du

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N.D.E. Agentivité : notion philosophique issue du terme anglais *agency*, désignant la capacité à agir sur le monde, les choses, les êtres, à les transformer.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million. The number of people who are malnourished has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people who are obese has increased from 100 million to 300 million.

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the problem of malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global strategy to reduce malnutrition. The strategy is based on three pillars: (1) improving the quality of food, (2) improving the availability of food, and (3) improving the utilization of food. The strategy is based on the principle that malnutrition is a preventable disease.

The WHO strategy is based on the principle that malnutrition is a preventable disease. The strategy is based on three pillars: (1) improving the quality of food, (2) improving the availability of food, and (3) improving the utilization of food. The strategy is based on the principle that malnutrition is a preventable disease. The strategy is based on three pillars: (1) improving the quality of food, (2) improving the availability of food, and (3) improving the utilization of food.

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« Ces robots ne sont pas conscients », insista Man
de vin rouge dans la cuisine, et, à présent, ils étaient
au champagne. « Rien de plus qu'un tas de foutues
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. » « Toi aussi, tu es
une machine, Tante Amy, lâcha Willy. La seule d

tu es faite de chair, et eux de câbles et de silicone.»

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Si les artistes ont déjà mis en scène des «vies artifi

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et de la robotique, simulant des systèmes vivants, avec la convergence de la biologie de synthèse et c
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. L'influence de la technologie de traitement de l'information atteint clairement un nouveau ni
fabriquées par l'homme. D'autre part, les capacités
organismes présumés primitifs et aux systèmes b

lement reconsidérées dans leur complexité, que l
lentement à comprendre : les bactéries, les micro

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sont aujourd’hui étudiés sous l’angle de leurs age
de leurs potentiels à synthétiser. Avec le terme

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comme outil discursif trans

disciplinaire, les notions d’art, d’agentivité et d’a

Art, Agency and Anima

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]prennent ainsi de nouvelles significations, qui se
une exposition éponyme au Beall Center for Art &

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Dans le contexte des avant-gardes américaines c

Wetware: Art, Agency, Animation

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l'exposition emblématique de Jack Burnham, qui

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des technologies de l'information, pointant déjà u
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les processus dynamiques plutôt que les objets, m

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La question « Qu'est-ce que la vie ? » comme son ex
que la vie artificielle ? » constituent des interrogat
culturelle, incarnées par nos tentatives de compr

tifiquement et artistiquement – et de recréer ce qu

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Dans nos efforts pour appréhender les caractéristiques des êtres vivants, la reconstruction et la modélisation de l'analyse – semblent être une constante pulsionnelle. La preuve que l'humanité comprenne vraiment ce qu'est la fabrication de synthèse comme la réalisation ultime d'un mantra du physicien américain Richard Feynman : « je ne le comprends pas » – phrase significativement

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, roman de science-fiction biopunk de Rudy Ruck
lequel une race de robots intelligents crée des hybrides
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Rucker,
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Hardware
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des logiciels (software), parfois utilisés par analogie en philosophie
physiologique de la pensée.

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Extrêmophile

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raison de la température, pression, salinité, acidité etc.

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L'exposition

Wetware:
Art,
Agency,
Animation,
co-organisée
par
l'auteur
Jens
Hauser

et
David
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a présenté les œuvres de Adam Brown, Gilberto Esparza, Thomas
Strecker, Orkan Telhan, Evelina Domnitch et Dmitry Gelfand, e

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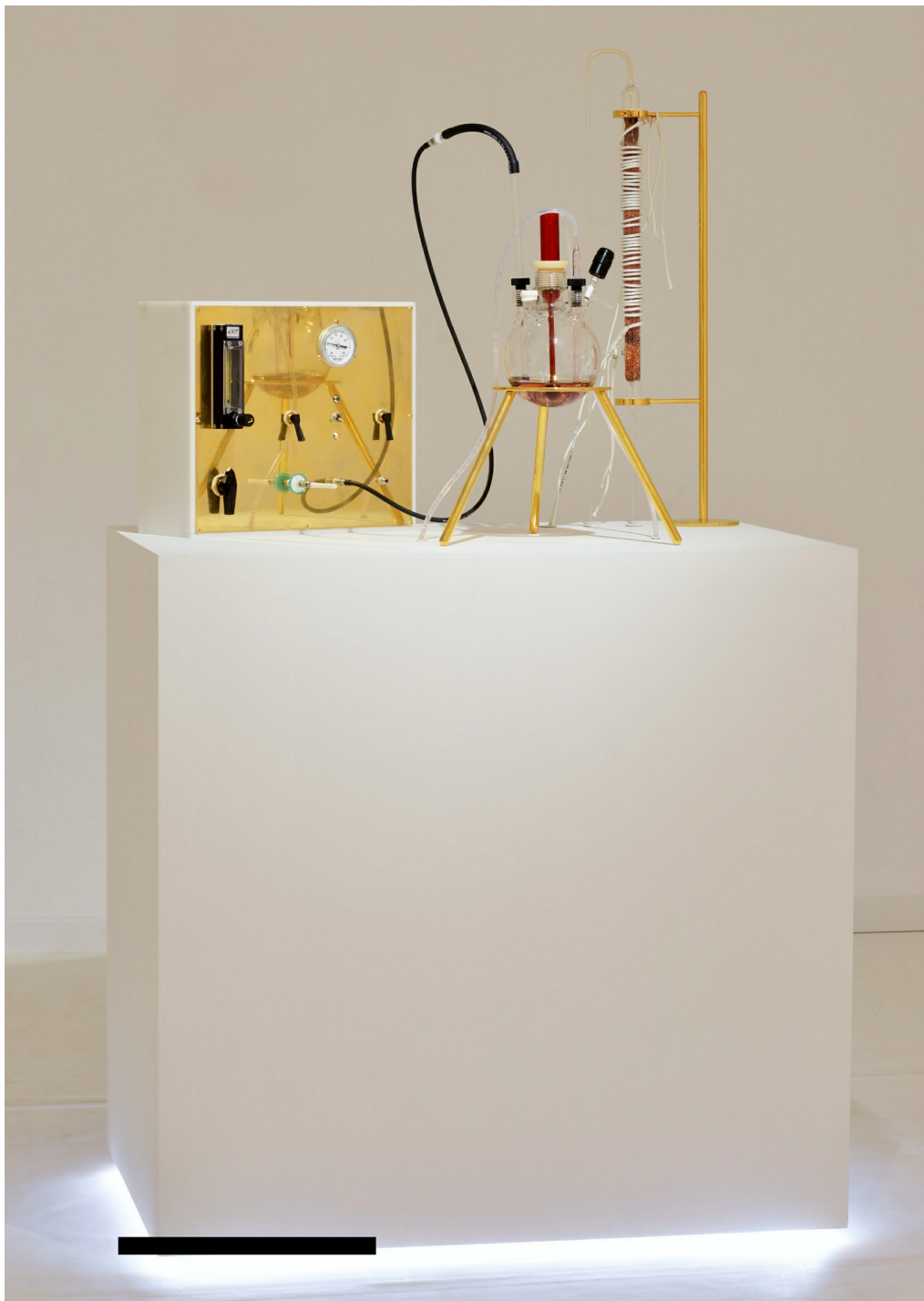
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Burnham,
Jack:
Software.
Information
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Art.

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Rucker, Rudy: *Wetware*. Avon Books, New York, 1988.



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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Nous n'avons pas encore saisi à quel point les machines fonctionnent aujourd'hui à des échelles et suivant des principes différents des systèmes mécaniques, électroniques que nous connaissons. Avec l'avènement de disciplines telles que

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peuvent se reproduire et proliférer tout en devenant de plus en plus

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signifie dès lors : protocoles et dispositifs utilisés
moléculaire et en biologie de synthèse. Il englobe
point de vue biologique et de la théorie générale d

tières entre organismes et machines. Il peut décri

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implémentées dans des systèmes et organismes vivants, y compris le système nerveux et l'esprit, et de l'information nécessaire aux systèmes biologiques. D'un point de vue conceptuel, l'histoire de l'art est une synthèse. Rassembler des éléments disparates, réaliser de nouvelles œuvres, métaphores, expériences sensorielles esthétiques, est également inhérent à la curiosité humaine de nouvelles façons de créer avec de nouveaux médias d'expression. La fascination à l'égard de la mise en œuvre

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imprègne l'histoire culturelle en général, et celle
en particulier. Des premières statues anthropomorphes
de mouvements simples, le mythe de la «vivification»
par les artistes. Animer une matière malléable s'applique à la
picturale et, dès le XIX^e siècle, des métaphores biologiques
décrire les œuvres d'art elles-mêmes comme des organismes

⁸
. À longueur de débat,
il s'agissait de montrer comment les œuvres, par leur

sus, incarnaient une dimension vivante. L'art a insisté
de chercher à simuler et, plus récemment, à manipuler
vivants. Il a ainsi progressivement délaissé l'objet

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. Mais «qu’était la vie artificielle» à cette époque-
1980, l’art s’est beaucoup intéressé aux logiciels c
dans la lignée du célèbre manifeste de Christoph
artificielle est l’étude des systèmes créés par l’hor

tements caractéristiques des systèmes vivants na
les sciences du vivant traditionnelles, portant sur
en tentant de synthétiser des comportements ress

teurs et autres médias artificiels»

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8. Waetzoldt, Wilhelm: *Das Kunstwerk als Organismus. Ein aesthet*

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Penny,
Simon:
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Living
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In:
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biochimique¹², en « resituant la vie
telle que nous la connais

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dans le contexte plus large de la vie
telle qu'elle pourrait être
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Alors que Langton désirait surtout se débarrasser
Petri, microscopes, gels électrophorétiques, pipe

rail du laboratoire humide»

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, les artistes ont souvent appliqué littéralement ce
dogme avec les médias qui étaient à leur disposition

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, automates cellulaires, réseaux
neuronaux, virus informatiques, écosystèmes vir
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pour de nombreuses années. De telles formes de v
dépendaient principalement, comme le souligne :

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.C'est-à-dire que leur “aspect vivant” – leur capa
à se reproduire et autres “comportements ressem
virtuelle de l’ordinateur – dépend de leur succès à
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la “vie” envers leur
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S Y N T H È S E H U M I D E

Alors « Qu'est-ce que la vie artificielle » aujourd'hui
humide est de retour, et nous constatons un vif intérêt
hybrides et semi-vivants, avec un accent particulier
en question les frontières entre le vivant et le non-
vie organique, y compris la vie manipulée à base de
scientifiques tels que Marc A. Bedau, rédacteur en

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, suggèrent que les recherches de la biologie de sy
cellules artificielles qui nettoient l'environnemen
substitution, ou encore les tentatives de synthèse

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tuent aujourd'hui des cas de vie artificielle « humi
à la vieille querelle de savoir si la vie artificielle

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vivante, ou si elle n'est qu'une simulation ou repré

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–en référence au célèbre texte d’Erwin Schrö

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Bedau avance que « la vie artificielle

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étonnamment proches de la vie, au point de paraître

pour certains, tandis que d'autres continuent à so

qu'une simulation par ordinateur puisse être litté

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de la vie artificielle humide est intuitivement plausible
acceptons généralement sans trop de problème que

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en laboratoire puisse être littéralement vivante. 1

La biologie de synthèse est désormais appréhendée

oscillant entre des approches ascendantes et des

le virtuel et le réel. La simulation et la mise en œuvre

sont plus considérées comme des méthodes antagonistes

discipline a pour objectif d'appliquer des principes

façon à modifier mais surtout construire « la vie »

des « machines vivantes ». Lors de la synthèse de 1

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Langton,

Christopher

G.:

Artificial

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Christopher G. Langton (ed.): *The Proceedings of an*

Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Synthesis and Simulation of Living

Alamos, New Mexico. Vol. VI. Redwood City, 1989, p. 1.

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15.

Doyle,

Richard:

Wetwares.

Experiments

in

Postvital

Living.

Minneapolis/Londres,

2003,

p.

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16.

Rasmussen,

Steen,

et

al.

(ed.):

Protocells.

Bridging

Nonliving

and

Living

Matter.

Cambridge/Londres,

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17.

Schrödinger,
Erwin:
*What
is
life?
The
Physical
Aspect
of
the
Living
Cell.*

Cambridge,

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18.

Bedau,

Mark

A.:

What

is

Life?

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Sarkar,

Sahotra

and

Plutynski,

Anya

(ed.):

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Companion

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Philosophy of Biology. New York, 2007, p. 455.

Art et agentivité à l'heure du

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est produite chimiquement et transférée dans des

nismes peuvent être équipés de nouvelles fonctions
base d'ADN ; les recherches en organismes minir

giques réduites à leurs fonctions de survie ; des pr
cellulaire, peuvent être produites à partir de subs

biologie construit des systèmes biologiques fonct
nature et n'ont d'ailleurs pas vocation à interagir

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, cela signifie que la simulation et la re-matérialisation
organique ne peuvent plus être considérées comme
des opérations compatibles avec le
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. Les artistes qui intègrent ou créent des laboratoires sont particulièrement « proches littéral, alors que la biologie de synthèse est bien j paradigmes historiques de la « création » en art. I laboratoire a par ailleurs mené à leur détournem des nouveaux médias, qui appliquent le potentiel

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numérique à la biologie

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ou locaux de collectifs d'artistes médias, suivant
modèle créatif et politique d'appropriation qui a c

ciations de cinéma Super 8, les vidéo-clubs, les ra
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C'est dans ce contexte qu'intervient l'exposition

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, avec ses résidences

artistiques associées. Elle présente des artistes q
travail vers des pratiques rendues possibles par l

Pourtant, pour eux il ne s'agit pas simplement d'i

niques mais de détourner la fonction utilitaire du

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. En matérialisant des
«machines vivantes» dépassant la simple simulation
outils expérimentaux au-delà de leur utilité pratique
pour questionner les grandes métaphores qui les
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des projets artistiques qui étudient, de manière cr
pocentrique derrière la conception de vies artific
lités qui en découlent. Les concepts d'art, d'agent
déplacés. L'art sort de la cage dorée du symbolisme
techno-scientifiques qui façonnent les visions du

tivité n'est plus réservée aux seuls êtres humains,
formes de vie non-humaines, machines ou systèmes
d'animation – au sens courant « créer des films ou
signification première : la qualité et condition d'être
ou semblable à la vie.

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É P R I M I T I V E E T E N C A P S U L A T I O

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Cependant, en essayant de prédire « Qu'est-ce qu
devrions considérer non seulement la standardis

tés abstraites similaires au

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mais pourrions également nous demander – comme
Helmreich – «Qu'est-ce qu'était la vie?»

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. Découvririons-nous l'avenir des formes
de vie possibles dans le rétroviseur, c'est-à-dire d
vie dans des zones que Helmreich nomme les «bio
tant que concept, est avant tout «un modèle trans

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Schmidt,
Markus,
(ed.):
*Synthetic
Biology.*

*Industrial
and
Environmental
Applications.*

Weinheim,

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examinons de plus près les écologies extrêmes de
phytoplancton, ou encore à la capacité des bactéries
extrêmes : « Des biologies limites, comme “la vie à
extrême et l’astrobiologie soulignent des instabilités
de nature – organique, terrestre ou cosmique

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» – et du vivant en tant que tel. De
plus, on trouvera à ces extrêmes toute une gamme
considérés comme les capacités techniques innées
sont « poussés aux limites de ce que les biologistes

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une « nature » qui crée et synthétise elle-même, po

bactéries évoluant pour manger du plastique et a
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incarne et matérialise poétiquement ces question

phiques et épistémologiques. La pratique artistique

to Esparza explore ainsi symboliquement
la vie comme un modèle transposable
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, déplaçant les notions de vie artificielle du domaine

technique, électronique et informatique du nouveau vivant. Elles sont originaires. Le visiteur découvre des méduses vital en dessinant des cercles concentriques de leur

risés, attachés à des fils électriques. Des chenilles sur des câbles téléphoniques, creusant leur chemin en

tions, tandis que des «multipeds», organismes robustes et aux membres délicats éliminent le gaspillage de ces «parasites» à base de

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de déchets technologiques humains.

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se présente quant à elle comme
un synthétiseur musical qui permet aux humains

triques de bactéries nettoyant de l'eau contaminée

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Esparza n'utilise d'ailleurs que des bactéries auto-
naturellement», et non des bactéries artificielles.

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Great Work of the Metal Lover
, d'Adam Brown, héberge des bactéries extrême

philes souvent utilisées pour assainir des sols ind
toxiques. Elles produisent ce faisant de l'or, résol
de la pierre philosophale. De telles œuvres d'art p
l'«autonomie» ou l'«intelligence» qui étaient sou

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–pour décrire l’imitation de la cognition humaine
l’intelligence décentralisée et collaborative mise
pour nettoyer les déchets de l’humanité en période

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Alors que la maladie de Panama menace les bana

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destiné à créer des
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, l'installation live d'Evelina Domnitch et Dmitry Gelfand, explore un autre type de vie artificielle mimant des protocellules – modèles innée complexe – permettent de simuler visuellement le phytoplancton dans une biosphère, comme vue de l'espace à une échelle miniature mais de façon saisissante la vie. Une «biologie limite» en modélise alors une autre, celle des non humains, réalisant le spectacle éblouissant d'une

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Helmreich,

Stefan

:

What

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Life?

Answers

from

Three

Limit

Biologies.

Dans

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Critical

Inquiry,

Vol.

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No. 4 (Été 2011), p. 671-696.

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Art et agentivité à l'heure du
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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, only 1.5 million women were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of women in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, only 0.5 million people with disabilities were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people with disabilities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, only 0.5 million people from ethnic minorities were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 1.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower social classes. In 1980, only 1.5 million people from the lower social classes were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower social classes in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower income groups. In 1980, only 1.5 million people from the lower income groups were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower income groups in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower education levels. In 1980, only 1.5 million people from the lower education levels were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower education levels in the workforce.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from the lower health status. In 1980, only 1.5 million people from the lower health status were employed in the public sector, but by 1995, this number had increased to 2.5 million. This increase has been a major factor in the overall increase in the number of people from the lower health status in the workforce.

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M I C R O P E R F O R M A T I V I T É E T M

ACROPRÉOCCUPATIONS

Dans les mises en scènes biotechnologiques de K

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joue également un rôle central. Pour

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«animal moléculaire» a été conçu sous la forme d

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génétique standard augmentée de séquences de g
lièvre de Joseph Beuys, retournant ainsi l'utopie d

tique de sa performance pour une contre-économie
spéculation autour de la bio-économie. Ailleurs, c
qui deviennent les protagonistes:

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une sculpture biotechnologique de
Thomas Feuerstein, relève du

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au sens le plus littéral du terme, celui utili

sé en science-fiction, dénotant des éléments fonc
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Touchant au statut du cerveau, entre spiritualism
l'artiste nourrit des cellules neuro-gliales humain
développent à l'image d'un cerveau humain, et ce
modifiées pour produire du glucose à partir de la
régime alimentaire du cerveau artificiel est strict

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»[de la matière à penser]

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»[des pensées à manger].

Les explorations en laboratoire d'Anna Dumitriu et les acides aminés non canoniques se concentrent sur la modélisation abstraite et le pliage en trois dimensions. Dans la recherche d'anticorps, tout en questionnant la métaphores heuristiques, à l'image du cliché selon lequel les molécules organiques sont faites d'acides aminés formant une chaîne linéaire, la présentation et son mode de représentation devient

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physiquement les 21 acides aminés réels d'un ant
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reconstitue et miniaturise la métaphore du «collier
mique: des séquences d'ADN artificiel, plasmide
assimilées à des «colliers», mais «portées» cette

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Ce type de micro-sculptures évoque nombre de pr
notamment les écrits de Jack Burnham sur « les e

nologie sur la sculpture de ce siècle »

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est un incontournable malheu

reusement négligé dans les cercles classiques de
même où Lucy Lippard diagnostique l'ère de la «

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en mettant l'accent sur les idées et les actions, Bu

pective biologiste et nourrie de l'histoire des tech-
de sculpture, faisant valoir que sa « survie » déper-

25.

Hauser,

Jens:

Molekulartheater,

Mikroperformativität

und

Plantamorphisierungen.

Dans

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Susanne (ed.): *Wahrnehmung, Erfahrung, Experiment, Wissen. Ob-*
und den Wissenschaften. Zürich/Berlin, 2014, p. 173-189.

26. Winthrop-Young, Geoffrey: *Hardware/Software/Wetware*. I.
(ed.): *Critical Terms for Media Studies*. Chicago/Londres, 2010, p.

27.

Burnham,

Jack:

Beyond

Modern

Sculpture.

The

*Effects
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Science
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Sculpture
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Century. New York, 1968.

Art et agentivité à l'heure du

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des objets matériels aux systèmes complexes : de
idéalistes jusqu'aux processus organicistes dans
du vivant sont expliqués par des micro-phénomèn
«de la sculpture comme objet totémique chargé p
plus littérale de la réalité scientifique via le modè
technologie», et donc vers «des systèmes simular

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Influencé par la cybernétique et la génétique mod
mais aussi par des préoccupations environnemen
de Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Burnham appelle à u
réorientation vers la fonctionnalité de la sculptur
apparences biotiques, en faveur d'un fonctionner

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Il espère que les spectateurs de ce genre d'art sero
une conscience environnementale planétaire hol

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« Si l'homme approche d'un moment de changement par la sélection naturelle et la mutation, quel meilleur scientifique pour anticiper l'auto-re-création (et spirituellement induite pour former artificiellement

nique? La sculpture moderne est-elle ce processus

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Dans ce contexte, il est facile de comprendre pour l'initiateur de l'emblématique exposition

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, en 1970 à New York. Malgré
les immenses progrès technologiques réalisés de
des parti-pris de cette exposition s'avèrent aujour
Passant outre la distinction entre l'art et les autres

ment influencées par les nouvelles technologies d

ment anticipé l'évolution générale de l'art vers de
systèmes naturels et artificiels, processus et relat

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sant que si « nous construisons des machines à no
entre le corps et l'esprit ne peut être qu'une illusio
connaissances scientifiques sur la biologie huma

cation en général ».

L'influence de la technologie du traitement de l'ir
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qui se développait alors rapidement – « sur des no

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» atteint maintenant un nouveau niveau avec les «
humides» fabriquées par l’homme, et Burnham a
réalisé «la séparation entre

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», et qu'il convenait donc de la surmonter. Il a également souligné deux autres caractéristiques

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logies qui n'étaient accessibles qu'à une élite haut
sont rapidement devenues des outils à la dispositi
mis au jour par de telles pratiques qui réactivent c

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:il portait sur

les compétences manuelles liées aux techniques d

tions actuelles entre beaux-arts, arts appliqués et
de proportions par rapport au schisme originel cr

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n'opérait ainsi « aucune des distinctions qualitatives
sous-cultures artistiques et techniques

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Lippard,

Lucy

R.:

Six

Years.

The

Dematerialization

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New

York,

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Burnham, *ibid.*, p. 7.

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Burnham, *ibid.*, p. 76.

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Burnham, *ibid.*, p. 374.

32.

Burnham,

Jack:

Notes

on

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processing.

Dans

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Burnham,

Software,

ibid.,

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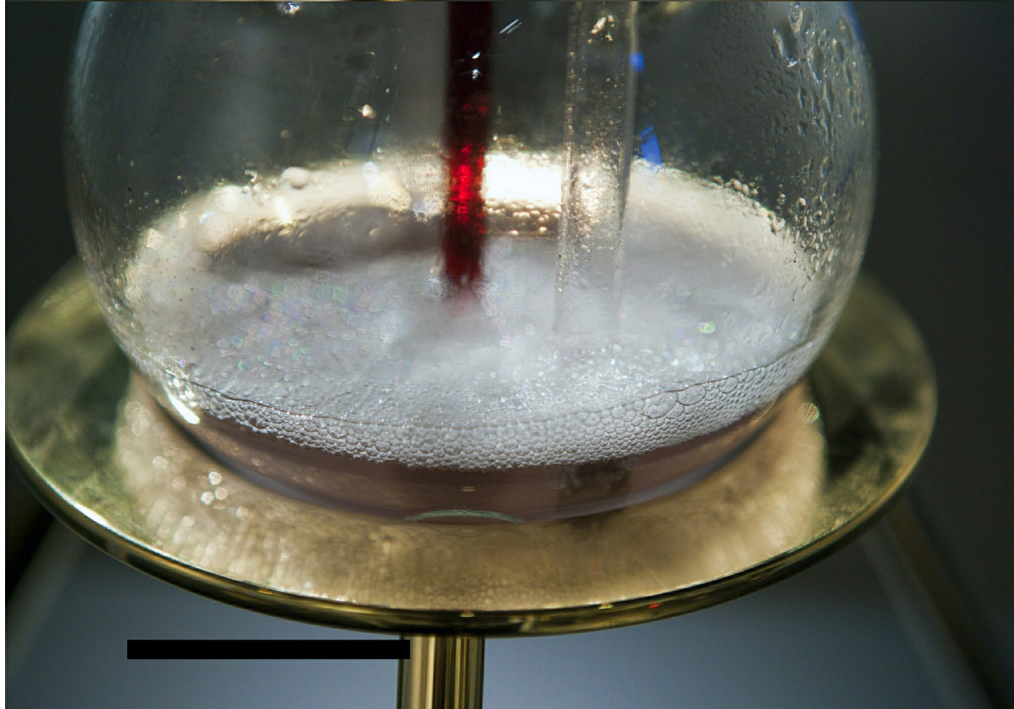
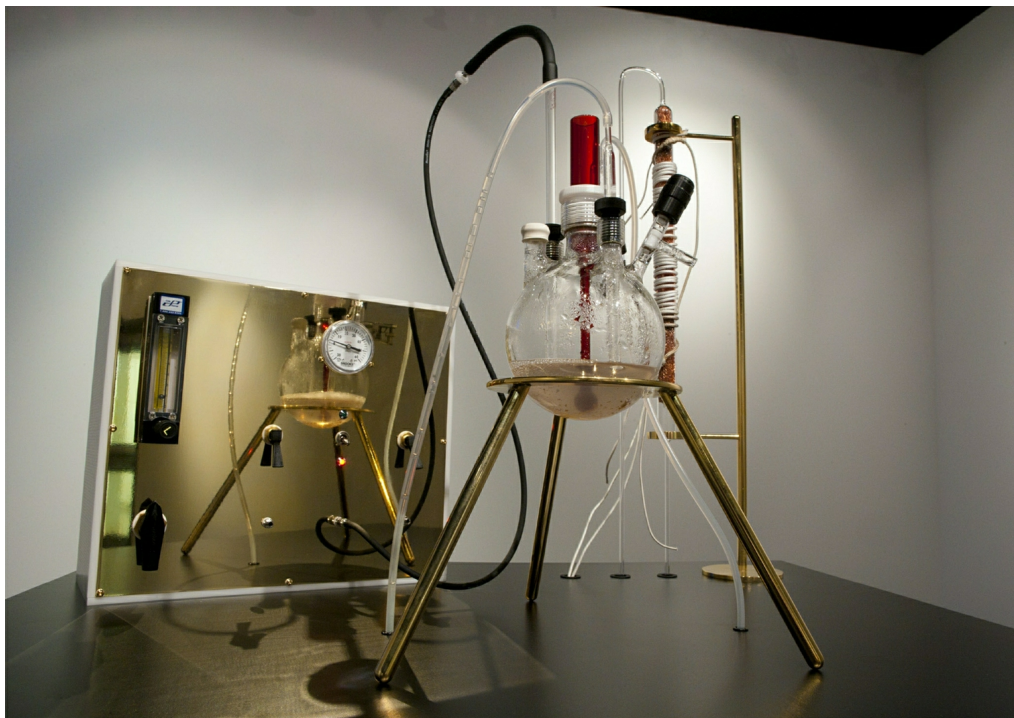
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- SISTEMA DE ESTRUCTURA Y LOCOMOTOR
- SISTEMA METABÓLICO Y DE ENERGÍA
- ▲ CEREbro Y SISTEMA NERVIOSO

TENTÁCULOS DE SUJECCIÓN

CEREBRO

CAJA DE RESONANCIA

BOCINA

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CARRETE DE TENDONES

TENDÓN

SEGMENTOS

EJES VERTEBRALES

REGULADOR DE TENSIÓN DE TENDÓN



À la lumière de la récente tendance de la biologie
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et de la vogue
de la biologie de synthèse, il est surprenant de con

cés semblent visionnaires 45 ans plus tard – un ter
voire une éternité, considéré à l’aune de la loi de M
prédictions de Gordon Moore, cofondateur d’Inte
le nombre de transistors par puce, qui permet de f

tor et entraîne un véritable changement technolo
conséquent, culturel, doublerait tous les deux ans

que l'industrie du semi-conducteur ne soit plus au

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et que la « loi de Moore soit vraiment morte, cette

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pour des questions de chaleur dans des puces toujours
de phénomènes de physique quantique, la miniaturisation
avec des matériaux conventionnels. Le

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serait-il la solution? Nombreux
sont ceux qui anticipent les promesses inexplorées

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-à base de cellules, d'ADN et de neurones - dans l

informatiques : « Ne vous occupez pas des tablettes

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! » En art, et dans toutes ses sous-cultures esthétiques

est vraiment temps de se « mettre à jour » concernant

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38.
Mitchell,
Waldrop
M.:
More
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Moore.
In:
Nature,
Vol.
530,
(11
février)
2016,
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39.

Bright,
Peter:
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Popkin,
Gabriel:
Moore's
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Weird.
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bubbles and slime mold. Dans : *Nautilus*, Issue 21, "Information.
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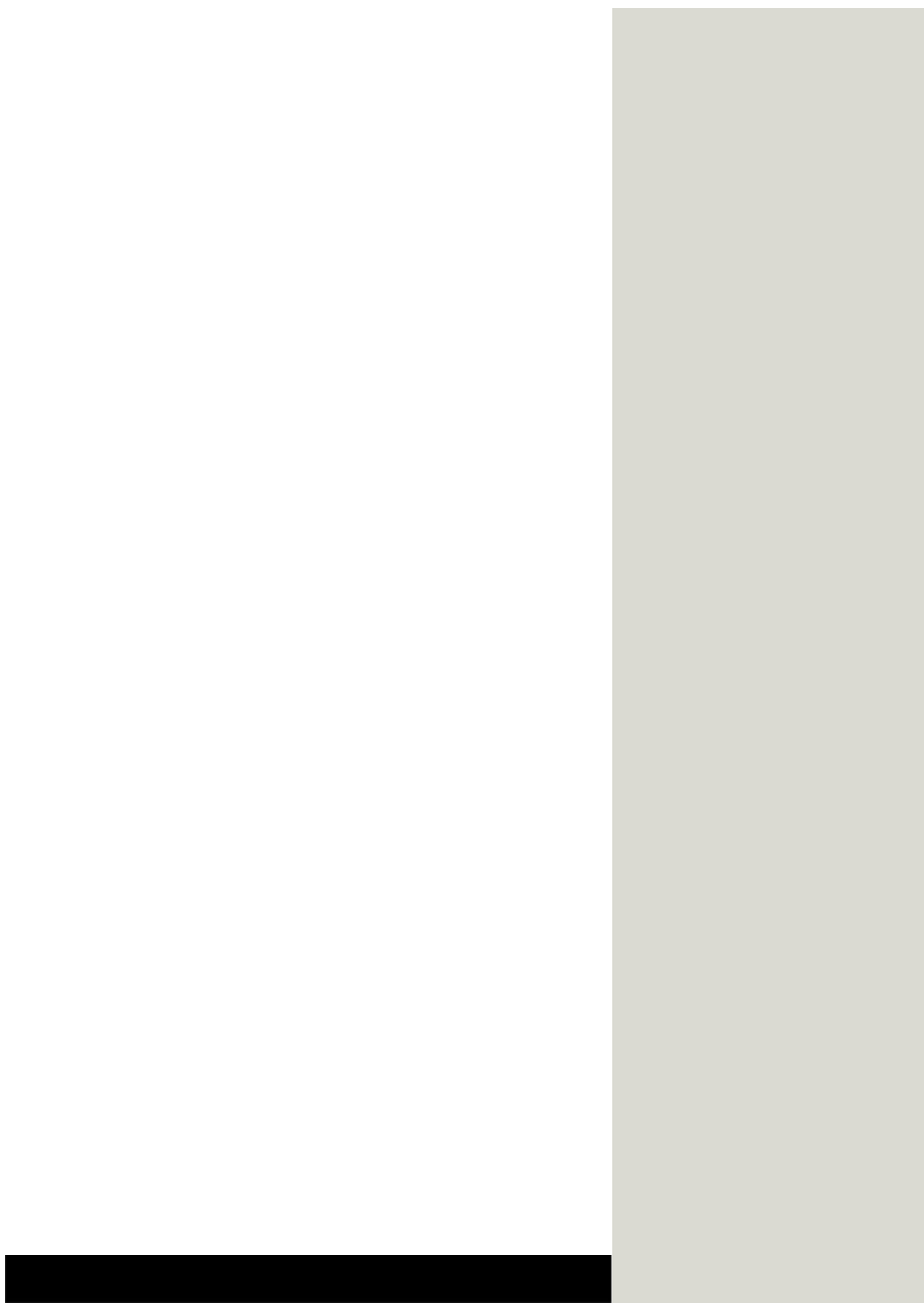
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Faced with an obsessive questioning about the nature of life, artists have sought to recreate the living, developing the myth of “vivification” and the simulation of living. Having always sought to imagine, represent, imitate, and simulate life, artists now manages to manipulate it directly via wetware. If information technology was the main direction in the seventies, favoring dynamic processes rather than static ones, the rise of synthetic biology and technologies of the living now allow for the creation of “artificial machines” which blur the borders between organisms and machines. This field goes beyond computer simulations and robotics, giving birth to a new art that challenges the boundaries between the living and the non-living. For Artificial Life art, organic simulation and re-materialization are key operations that are compatible with wetware, shifting concepts

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“Those robots aren’t conscious,”
insisted Mom. She’d had a lot of red wine
in the kitchen, and now they were all
back on the champagne. “They’re just a

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machine, too, Aunt Amy,” put in Willy.

“You’re just made of meat instead of

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While artists have previously staged
“artificial life” via computer hardware
and software as well as robotics in order
to simulate living systems, increasingly, in
the light of today’s convergent living tech

nologies and synthetic biology, the notion
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influence of information processing tech
nology has reached a new level in man

made “wet machines.” On the other hand,
the innate technological capacities in sup
posedly primitive organisms and ancestral
biological
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given environment, their capacity to act on the world,
things or beings, to transform or influence them

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(New York: Avon Books,
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reconsidered in their complexity, which
the human mind only very slowly starts

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understand.

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being investigated while taking into ac

count their own agencies and potentials to

synthesize. Hence, with the term

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as a trans-disciplinary discursive appara

tus, the notions of art, agency, and anima

tion acquire new meanings, translated into
a recent exhibition with the same title held
at the Beall Center for Art + Technology
at the University of California Irvine.

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the context of earlier twentieth century
avant-gardes in the US,

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, and already demonstrated art's move
toward concerns with natural and man

made systems, dynamic processes rather

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Wetware: Art, Agency, Animation

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was co-curated by the author Jens Hauser and
David Familian, and presented works by Adam

Brown, Gilberto Esparza, Thomas Feuerstein, Klaus
Spiess and Lucie Strecker, Orkan Telhan, Evelina
Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand, and Anna Dumitriu,
February 6–May 7, 2016.

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Its New Meaning for Art
, New York, 1970.

Art and Agency in Times of Wetware

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has been a recurrent inquiry
in cultural history in our attempt to un

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to comprehend the intrinsic features that
make living things essentially alive, re

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out of analysis—appear to be a consistent human drive. Although there is no evidence that humankind truly understands what it creates, some see synthesis even as the ul

timate achievement of knowledge, citing the engineer-mantra of American physi

cist Richard Feynman, “What I cannot create, I do not understand”, a sentence

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coined the same year in
which Rudy Rucker's biopunk sci-fi novel
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was published, in which a race
of intelligent robots creates new organic
synthetic hybrids called "meatbops."⁴

S T A G I N G A L I V E N E S S

Indeed, we may not yet have compre

hended that “meaty” or “wet” living ma

chines today operate on scales and in
modes different from the “dry,” mechani

cal, electronic, and computational ones we

know and can recognize. Instead, with the advent of disciplines such as synthetic bio

logy, machines may reproduce, proliferate, and become pervasive, while being hardly

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protocols and devices used in molecular biology and synthetic biology. It encom

passes the biological and systems theore

tical understandings of life and blurs the line between organisms and machines. It can describe technical entities equivalent to hardware and software found or imple

mented in living systems and organisms,
including
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mind, and stand in for any kind of infor

mation processing necessary for biological
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Conceptually speaking, the history of
art itself is full of synthesis. Uniting dispa

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rate elements, putting them into a collage to create new works, metaphors, sensory experiences, or aesthetic genres, is also inherent to a certain human curiosity, pre

sent in every epoch, for finding new ways of creating with new expressive media and techniques. Likewise, the historical fas

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than merely representing it—permeates cultural history, on the whole, and art, in particular. Since the earliest anthro

pomorphic statues and pneumatic figures generating simple movements, myths of vivification surround artifacts made by the artist's hand. The animation of malleable matter, of course, stands in a long picto

rial tradition as well, and, beginning in the nineteenth century, biological metaphors have been employed in the discussion of artworks themselves as organisms. Again

and again, these discussions emphasize how artworks, by means of form, material, or process, manifest a touch of aliveness. Art has imagined, represented and mimicked, then simulated and—quite recently—manipulated living beings and systems, for real. As a result, it has become less and less object-centered and increasingly performative and processual. After painting, sculpture, and automata, art in the late twentieth century has employed “dry” informatics and robotics to present a
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In 1995, when the artist and theorist
Simon Penny asked, “Why do we want
our machines to seem alive?”

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in mind the then recent developments in
“artificial life, the generation of lifelike
behavior by computer programs in a di

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Penny saw this phe

nomenon as a pursuit of humankind’s
eternal drive both “to imitate nature (a
process known as mimesis) and to simu

late the qualities of being human (an

thropomorphism) [so as to] blur the lines
between animate and inanimate, between
human and machine.”⁸ But at that parti

cular moment, what was artificial life?

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Das Kunstwerk als Organismus.

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Simon
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273, no. 3 (September 1995),
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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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frequently been concerned with software
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festo that "Artificial Life is the study of
synthetic systems that exhibit behaviors
characteristic of natural living systems.

It complements the traditional biological sciences concerned with the analysis of living organisms by attempting to synthesize life-like behaviors within computers and other artificial media.”

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seemed “possible to abstract the logical form of a machine from its physical hard

ware, it is natural to ask whether it is possible to abstract the logical from of an organism from its biochemical wetware”

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While
Langton
bluntly
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to get rid of “incubators, culture dishes,
microscopes,
electrophoretic
gels,
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pettes, centrifuges and other assorted wet

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literally applied his dogma, in accordance
with then readily available media: robotic
entities,
electronic
avatars,
chaotic

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gorithms, knowbots, cellular automata,
neural networks, computer viruses, and
virtual ecosystems, which populated the
media arts scene for many years. Such
forms of A-Life indeed depended, as Ri

chard Doyle points out, mainly “on their

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. That is, their
‘liveliness’—their ability to achieve the
reproductive success and other ‘lifelike
behaviors’ in the virtual ecology of the
computer—depends on their success in

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‘life’ to their human wetware.”

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what is artificial life?
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wet-lab paraphernalia are back, as well as
a clear shift toward hybrid and semi-living
systems in art, with a focus on projects
that challenge the boundaries between
the living and the non-living, between

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Christopher
Langton,

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The Proceedings of an
Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Synthesis and Si

mulation of Living Systems

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Wetwares: Experiments in Postvital
(Minneapolis: Univeristy of Minnesota

synthetic and organic life, thus including
manipulated carbon-based life. Science

philosophers, such as Mark Bedau, the editor-in-chief of the international journal

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, suggest that the research

goals of synthetic biology, such as arti

ficial cells that clean the environment or produce alternative fuels, or the attempts

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a test tube, today constitute cases of “wet” artificial life. And this may even put an end to the old controversy over whether

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can be literally alive,
or is merely a simulation or representa

tion. In an article provocatively entitled
“What is Life?”—in reference to Erwin
Schrödinger’s seminal text from 1944

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Bedau argues that “soft Artificial Life
has created remarkably life-like software
systems, and they seem genuinely alive to
some, but others ridicule the whole idea

of a computer simulation being literally alive.”

Alternatively,

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of wet artificial life is intuitively plausible; we usually accept that something synthe

sized from scratch in the lab could be li

terally alive.”¹⁷ Currently, synthetic biolo

gy is being approached as a discipline in which both top-down and bottom-up ap

proaches, and the virtual and the actual,

oscillate. Simulation and material organic implementation are no longer thought of as opposing but compatible methods. The discipline aims at applying engineering principles to biology in order not only to modify but rather to build up “life” from scratch and design “living machines.” In DNA

synthesis,
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information

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chemically produced and transferred into foreign cells; with DNA-based biological

cal circuits, organisms can be equipped with new functions; minimal organisms research tests biological units that have been reduced to their minimal functions necessary for survival; protocells, early stages of cellular life forms, can be pro

duced out of lifeless chemical substances;

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Nonliving and Living Matter
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What is Life? The Physical
Aspect of the Living Cell

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16.
Mark
Bedau,
“What
is
Life?”

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the Philosophy of Biology

, eds. Sahotra Sarkar and
Anja Plutynski, (London: Blackwell Publishing,

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Art and Agency in Times of Wetware
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For artificial life art today, this means that simulation and organic re-materiali

zation can no longer be regarded as dis

tinct operations, but as wetware compa

tible. Those artists who enter the labs, or create their own, are particularly “close to life” in the literal biological sense, and the discipline of synthetic biology is well suited to upgrade art historical “creation” paradigms. At the same time, the demo

cratization of lab tools has led to their subversion by tinkerers and tactical media activists, who apply the critical potential

of open source culture from the digital age of media art to DIY biology. With the progressive convergence of hard, soft, and wetware, “wet corners” are being set up in already existing hacker spaces and media art associations, often following a creative and political paradigm of appro

priation having its forerunners in Super 8 film clubs, video groups, local open-ac

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It is in this context that the exhibition

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artists who increasingly extend their work toward practices illuminated by today's convergent technologies. However, they do not act as illustrators of technical novelty, rather they turn the utilitarian mission of wetware on its head. By materializing "living machines" beyond
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they challenge experimental systems and
tools over and above their utility in the
natural sciences and question guiding me

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that creatively and critically investigate
the anthropocentric mindset in engineered
moist artificial life and the responsibility
that arises with it. Hence, the concepts of
art, agency, and animation are shifting.
Art moves beyond its gilded cage of sym

bolism and engages with techno-scientific
processes that increasingly shape world

views today. Agency is not reserved for

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Markus
Schmidt,

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human beings anymore, but equally ascri

bed to non-human life, machines, and ex

perimental systems. And the meaning of
animation—in its common sense of making
movies or special effects—is turned back
to its original signification: the quality or
condition of being, or being made alive

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ANIMATED ENCAPSULATION ONSHO

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in the future, we may consider not
only the standardization and modulariza

tion of abstract units similar to hardware
and

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but also ask—as anthropologist Stefan

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we discover the future of possible forms
of life in the rearview mirror of how life
originally emerged in the realm of what
Helmreich calls “limit biologies”? If “life”
as a concept is above all “a pattern trans

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then we may take
a closer look at the extreme ecologies of
ocean life, such as in phytoplankton, or at
the ability of bacteria to survive extreme
conditions: “Limit biologies like Artificial
Life, extreme marine microbiology, and
astrobiology also point to larger instabili
ties in concepts of nature—organic, earth

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of aliveness as such. What is
more, one will find at these limits a whole
range of phenomena that can be addressed
as the innate technical capacities of mi

croorganisms when “pressed against the
boundaries
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living things capable of”

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itself engineers and synthesizes, so to
speak, including bacteria evolving to eat

plastic or other man-made trash.

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art embodies and poetically
materializes such philosophical and epis

temological questions. For example, Mexi

can artist Gilberto Esparza's practice em

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life as a pattern
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tions of artificial life from the mechanical,
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Stefan
Helmreich,
“What
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Life?
Answers

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electronic,
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the organic realm. The visitor encounters
somehow familiar, buzzing Diptera tied to
thin electric cables, defending their living
space with their inexhaustible, somewhat
too steadily circling rotor blades. Giant
caterpillars appear to have caught their
teeth on telephone wires, burrowing their
way into and hampering telecommuni

cation, and multipedes with cylindrical
torsos and delicate limbs do away with
the waste of urban civilization. All these

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clusively constructed out of humankind's
technological waste. By contrast, Espar

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presents itself as a musical

synthesizer that allows humans to hear
electrical oscillations of bacteria in micro

bial fuel cells as they clean contaminated
water. As a matter of fact, the artist uses

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bacteria only, not engineered ones. In the
same vein, Adam Brown’s

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ria, often used in ecological remediation to
filter toxic metals out of industrially pol

luted soils. Here, they produce gold, the

reby seeming to solve the alchemist riddle of the philosopher's stone. Such procedu

ral art works do not so much express the "autonomous" and "intelligent" behavior often claimed in earlier A-Life art to des

cribe the mimicking of human cognition, but rather their systems' decentralized and collaborative intelligence to clean up humankind's mess in times of major ecolo

gical and atmospheric crises.

Meanwhile,

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Panama

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threatening the Cavendish, the world's most popular banana, and Orkan Telhan

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countertop wetlab to engineer bacteria at home that can reproduce the Cavendish's smell and taste in semi-living encapsu

lations. Another type of encapsulation is the key element in Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand's

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A-Life,
so-called
protocells—models
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cells formed by an innate, complex che

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movements of phytoplankton in a bios

phere as seen from space, thus impres

sively materializing the fragility of our
ecosystems and biospheres at a miniature
level. One “limit biology” models another
in an interplay of non-human actors that
carry out a dazzling spectacle of what can

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In Klaus Spiess and Lucie Strecker's

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also plays a central role. For
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a “molecular animal” has been de

signed in the form of an engineered artistic

, a standardized genetic sequence
incorporating
gene
sequences

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from the blood of Joseph Beuys's famous hare, and turning the politically engaged happening artist's utopia of an equitable counter-economy upside down, in light of the current speculation in bio-parts. En

gineered bacteria, then, are the protagonists of Thomas Feuerstein's biotechnolo

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. Wetware in the most literal sense, used in science fiction and denoting functional elements equivalent to a computer found in biological systems or in a person—here, in the human brain. Feuerstein refers to another conno

tation of wetware, namely that “in compa
rison to hardware and software, wetware
is a somewhat dysfunctional component,
first and foremost a source of error. [While
it] may be blatantly inferior ... some of its
interior aspects are—still—unattainable to
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the brain’s position between spiritualism and metabolism, the artist feeds human neuroglia cells with glucose to grow into the shape of a human brain, thanks to spe

cifically modified bacteria that produce glucose by breaking down cellulose from

shredded books. However, the feeding of the artificial brain follows a strict diet since it exclusively consists of Hegel's

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. “Food for thought”
becomes “thought for food.”

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Jens

Hauser,

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Wahrnehmung, Erfahrung, Experiment, Wissen.
Objektivität und Subjektivität in den Künsten

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, ed. Susanne Stemmler
(Zürich: Diaphanes, 2014), 173–89.

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Geoffrey

Winthrop-Young,

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Critical Terms for Media Studies

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eds. W. J. T. Mitchell and Mark Hansen (Chicago:
University of Chicago Press, 2010), 191.

Art and Agency in Times of Wetware

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Anna Dumitriu’s lab investigations
into synthetic evolution and non-cano

nical amino acids focus on the inter

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the three-dimensional wetware folding
of amino acids in antibody research,

while questioning biology's terminolo

gy and heuristic metaphors, such as the image that all forms of organic life are made of amino acids that join together like strings of beads. Here, the object of presentation and the mode of represen

tation become one and the same. In

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relocates and miniaturizes the “string of beads” metaphor at the actual genomic level: engineered, circular plasmid DNA sequences are themselves considered the “necklaces,” but “worn” inside the bacte

rium itself this time.

Micro-sculptures of this kind invoke

historical precursors, such as Jack Burn

ham's writings on "The Effects of Science
and Technology on the Sculpture of this

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Held in high esteem in media

art circles as influential “guru” reading,

the book is unfortunately overlooked in

classical art history. At the very moment

Lucy Lippard diagnosed the period of

the “dematerialization of the art objec

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with its greater focus on ideas and actions, Burnham provides a retrospec

tive—biologistic and informed by the his

tory of technology—of over 2,500 years of sculpture, arguing that its very “survival” is dependent on its transition from ma

terial objects to complex systems: from idealistic-vitalist

imaginary

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organicistic processes in which macro phenomena of the living are explained by underlying micro phenomena, a transi

tion “of sculpture from a psychically-im

pregnated totemic object toward a more literal adaptation of scientific reality via

the model or technologically inspired

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The Effects of Science and Technology on the
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Six Years: The Dematerialization
of the Art Object from 1966 to 1972

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Influenced by cybernetics and
the modern genetics it inspired, but also
by environmental concerns, as well as
the early systems biology of Ludwig von
Bertalanffy, Burnham calls for a de

parture from form and a reorientation
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of the future “away from biotic appea

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the machine.”²⁸ He hopes that specta

tors of such art would be stimulated to

adopt a planetary-holistic environmental

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nology: “If man is approaching a time of radical change, one not controlled by na

tural selection and mutation, what better nonscientific way exists for anticipating self-re-creation (not procreation) than the spiritually motivated activity of arti

ficially forming images of organic origin? Could it be that modern sculpture is this

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Against this background, it is even
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show in 1970 in New York. Despite the far-reaching technological advances ex

perienced since that time, many of the exhibition's claims take on unexpected pertinence today. While overcoming dis

tinctions between art and other cultural practices deeply influenced by new in

formation technologies, Burnham also anticipated art's general move toward "concerns with natural and man-made systems,

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that if “we build machines in our own
self-image ... a separation between body

and mind may be no more than an illusion fostered by our lack of scientific knowledge about human biology and communication systems in

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Jack
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Technology: Its New Meaning for Art

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Root Burnham (New York: Jewish Museum,

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1998, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of women in its workforce. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were women, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

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“on notions such as creativity, perception

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reaches a new level in man

made “wet machines,” and it is worth
noting that Burnham himself claimed
that, in fact, “the division between

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is one that tangibly
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also pointed to two other features that

become relevant again in

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steady trend towards democratization,”³⁴
whereby technologies which two decades
ago still were only accessible to a highly
skilled elite become tools for laymen over
a short period of time, and the challenges
that arise when such practices update
older definitions of art, since

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it dealt with the manual skills
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sent distinctions between the fine, ap
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the usual qualitative distinctions between the artistic and technical subcultures.”³⁵

In light of the recent DIY biology trend, on the one hand, and the hype around synthetic biology, on the other, it is surprising how visionary such sta

tements sound over four decades later—a nearly incommensurable time span, if not an eternity, in terms of Moore’s law! According to Intel co-founder Gordon

Moore's
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in the 1960s and 1970s, the number of
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mately every two years. Today, however,
it seems that the semiconductor industry
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and that “Moore’s law really
is dead this time,”

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36. Waldrop Mitchell, “More Than Moore,” in
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530 (February 11, 2016), 144–47.

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Peter

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problems as heat in ever smaller chips
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terials. Is wetware the way out? Many an
ticipate the still underexplored promises

of fluid, chemical, and wetware computing on the basis of cells, DNA, neurons etc.: “Never mind tablet computers. Wait till you see bubbles and slime mold.”

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the arts, with all its aesthetic and technical

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Esthétique de la contingence : matérialisme, évolution et art

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Les fondements théoriques de la critique d'art doivent pour être en mesure de continuer à décrire, penser en pleine transformation. Les débats critiques courent de façon implicite dans des dualismes philosophiques et objet ou encore entre le matériel et l'immatériel

main et le non-humain.

Dans le monde actuel, où des questions matérielles comme les océans, la désertification des plaines ou les effets

climatique deviennent plus préoccupantes que jamais, où la validité de la science et la notion même de vérité sont aussi bien dans le domaine politique, des médias que de l'écologie, la critique d'art se trouve dans une situation

ment un positionnement positiviste en matière de
que cela fonctionne –, tout en restant peu désireux
matérialisme indépendant de l'esprit.

Las du spectre du réductionnisme et réticente à tout
comme étant davantage qu'un régime construit p

rie critique se retrouve aujourd'hui à examiner co

tions et rapports de pouvoir cachés, tout en restant
aux questions matérielles pressantes de notre temps
climatique – et plus impuissante encore à y faire face.

Nous pouvons nous libérer des dualismes trompeurs
en élargissant, la vérité de l'éthique. Il faut pour cela
sa relation au non-humain, d'abord en élargissant
resituant la subjectivité au sein du cadre évolutio

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, le critique Hal Foster¹ fait un point sur l'état de la critique d'art depuis les années 2000, affaibl

sante pour déceler les signes cachés de l'influenc

vés partout, y compris au sein même de cette rech
d'auto-déploration, la critique a elle-même été cr

la critique» par des philosophes tels que Bruno Latour et Jacques Derrida présente ce moment de crise comme une période de transition, qu'il qualifie de « post-critique » et pour laquelle il

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D'après Foster, les fondements du discours critique sont dominés par Freud et Marx – via Lacan, Barthes – et le sujet est au cœur de ces discours. Un sujet est un point de vue à distinguer de l'objet, qui recouvre tout le reste. C'est la dichotomie fondamentale à partir de laquelle les corps et esprit, humain et non-humain, nature et culture se déploient. Ces systèmes binaires ne correspondent pas aux hypothèses entraînent une distorsion de la perception. Foster fait état des tentatives de Bruno Latour et

ser la faculté d'action – ou « agentivité » – de l'objet. Le « post-critique », s'inscrivant dans une lignée de pensée comme anthropomorphisé et ayant une certaine résistance, pas moins sceptique du fait de sa propre « résistance » aux concepts humains (Dieu, Internet, une œuvre d'art) de nous et se voient accorder une faculté d'action

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Hal Foster, «Post-Critical?», *Bad New Days: Art, Criticism, Emer*





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Esthétique de la contingence : matérialisme, évolution et art

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reconnaît lui-même comme étant « d'origine prot

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. Foster se retrouve ainsi

dans l'incapacité de rejeter le dualisme sujet-objet
trait au fait que les objets ne sont pas les égaux de
pas être traités comme tels.

Cependant, la notion d'anthropomorphisation de
question de savoir comment redéfinir le rapport e
L'étape obligatoire du démantèlement du clivage
pas à attribuer aux objets une faculté d'action ou
élever ainsi au même statut éthique que les êtres h
évidemment pas être considérées comme ayant le
d'action que des personnes) – mais plutôt de repla
et l'éthique dans leur contexte, comme émergeant

L'artiste développe nécessairement des rapports
riaux. Il apprend comment ceux-ci se comportent
mer et d'articuler, quelles contraintes certains ty
tique peuvent tolérer avant de casser, se plier, se t
sous l'influence des écrits sur la matérialité de M.

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définition très généraliste de la matérialité compr
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système (j'utilise indifféremment les termes de m
perçois plus ou moins comme synonymes dans ma
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matière, d'énergie ou d'information se comporter
une motte d'argile ou une œuvre d'art conceptuell

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caractéristiques dans leurs interactions causales

mant ainsi leur propre matérialité. La façon dont
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à se comporter de manières spécifiques lorsqu'ils
à des conditions spécifiques – l'argile durcit lorsqu'
plastique fond. Dans le cadre de cette notion élargie
que nous qualifions traditionnellement d'« imma-
comme ayant malgré tout une certaine matérialité

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caractéristiques qui s'expriment dans leurs dyna

miques internes et leurs liens de causalité avec le roman, un poème ou un algorithme peuvent ainsi matérialité, qui se reflète dans leurs effets sur le monde. L'histoire de l'art peut être conçue comme un projet qui a exploré les capacités expressives d'un ensemble

matériaux, allant de l'ocre aux logiciels, de l'email à la

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. Comme tout artiste le sait, travailler avec un matériau, quel qu'il soit,

l'implique une négociation entre les priorités de l'artiste et les propriétés du matériau. Les nœuds, tensions et seuils imposent des contraintes possibles que tout matériel peut prendre. En d'autres

rôle actif dans la création de sa propre forme : ce n'est pas seulement une forme à un matériau, mais plutôt un dialogue. Il me semble que cette reconnaissance de l'indépendance du bon artiste, dans une certaine mesure, un matériau. En ce sens, la « dématérialisation de l'art » des années 1960 n'est pas une ; cette caractérisation est malheureuse de

nu. Les artistes se sont même plutôt intéressés à c

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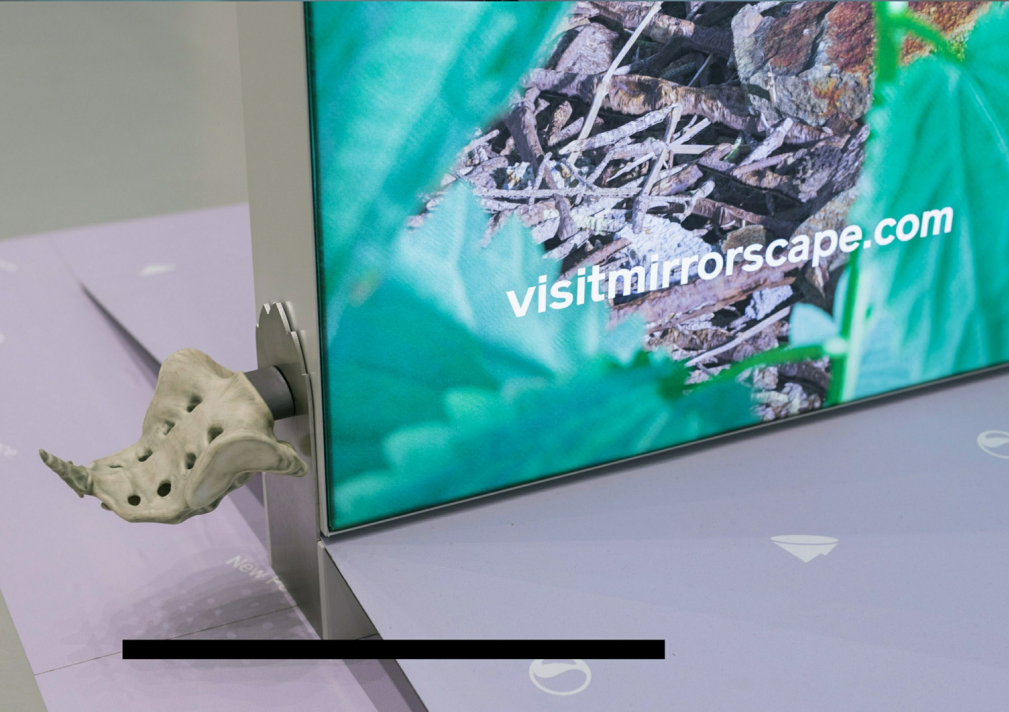
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Hal Foster, *Bad New Days: Art, Criticism, Emergency*, Verso, 2015

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Hal Foster, *Bad New Days: Art, Criticism, Emergency*, Verso, 2015





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A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well paid. In 1998, the average salary of a public sector employee was £18,000, compared with £15,000 in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

matériaux émergents, tels que les partitions et les
sociales ou le langage lui-même, chacun ayant se

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Le concept d'émergence est essentiel à la compréhension

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. L'émergence est le processus par lequel de petites entités se combinent et en forment de plus grandes dotées de caractéristiques nouvelles de leurs composantes. Parmi les exemples classiques, on compte les fourmilières, les plasmodes ou les nuées de locustes, par exemple des comportements complexes et organisés.

qui ne sont pas réductibles à la simple agrégation colonies explorent et exploitent leur environnement, quoi que ce soit ou soit même consciente de quoi qu'elle fasse, des fourmis individuelles adoptant des comportements fait de suivre des pistes de phéromones, débouché d'une grande complexité et d'un grand dynamisme. Même les propriétés des matériaux physiques sont ainsi impossible de dire si une molécule d'eau isolée, seul le comportement émergent des interactions peut donner à l'eau, l'acier, l'argile, comme à tout

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Nous pouvons de la même façon penser le langage ensembles de phénomènes émergents imbriqués ontologique d'un personnage fictif à l'aide d'une t DeLanda situe ces objets sur des couches multiples base desquels se trouvent des

impulsions d'air formées avec nos langues et n palais ou bien des inscriptions physiques. Au-c

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déploie à travers d

'une différenciation progressive de mots simpl
et monolithiques (ne pouvant être recombines
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un niveau de contenu sémantique.

Au-dessus, un niveau de syntaxe émerge (alors
recombinants). [...] Une fois ces couches émerg
utiliser pour créer encore un autre niveau : les l
des personnages dont l'identité est spécifiée pa

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La matérialité émergente de tout système étant é
conceptuels utilisés dans l'art contemporain peu
des palettes de matériaux réels aux tendances, ca

sances causales singulières. Non seulement les a
systèmes émergents, mais l'œuvre d'art elle-même
le relationnel, dans les connexions entre et autour
des artistes, depuis les années 2000 environ. En s
de l'art a constitué une exploration explicite de l'a
une œuvre d'art et son spectateur

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:les œuvres d'art sont des objets sociaux émer

gents où les tendances et capacités des esprits et c
des composantes du système. Bien sûr, on pourra
du spectateur a toujours implicitement été une co
œuvre d'art. Dès les toutes premières peintures p
mastodontes, les artistes ont exploité les tendanc
de l'esprit à interpréter les formes et reconnaître

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DeLanda, Manuel, *Intensive science and virtual philosophy*, Londres

Esthétique de la contingence : matérialisme, évolution et art

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1999. The public sector has also become an important employer for women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There is a growing emphasis on the importance of the public sector in providing services to the community, and in particular in providing services to the elderly. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people with disabilities, with 1.5 million people with disabilities employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from ethnic minorities, with 1.5 million people from ethnic minorities employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the former Soviet Union, with 1.5 million people from the former Soviet Union employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Caribbean, with 1.5 million people from the Caribbean employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Indian subcontinent, with 1.5 million people from the Indian subcontinent employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Chinese community, with 1.5 million people from the Chinese community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Pakistani community, with 1.5 million people from the Pakistani community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Bangladeshi community, with 1.5 million people from the Bangladeshi community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the African community, with 1.5 million people from the African community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black British community, with 1.5 million people from the Black British community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black African community, with 1.5 million people from the Black African community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black Caribbean community, with 1.5 million people from the Black Caribbean community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black Asian community, with 1.5 million people from the Black Asian community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black Chinese community, with 1.5 million people from the Black Chinese community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980. The public sector is also becoming an important employer for people from the Black Indian community, with 1.5 million people from the Black Indian community employed in the public sector in 1999, compared with 1 million in 1980.

Pour remplacer de façon convaincante la dichotomie entre le matériel et le mental, il faut placer le devenir de la subjectivité elle-même au centre des termes, il faut chercher à comprendre comment la matière de nos cerveaux et de nos corps, puis réintégrer le cerveau dans le processus par lequel cela s'est fait, savoir dans notre histoire évolutive.

Le sujet de la psychanalyse et de la théorie critique

né, monolithique et transcendantale ment séparé du sujet ne peut expliquer les effets sur la conscience

braux ou les accidents vasculaires peuvent avoir, capacités mentales ou souvenirs très spécifiques, notre relation aux autres êtres vivants, sur la mar

chez d'autres organismes, de façons qui ne sont q
du fait d'un matériel (

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») neurologique et sensoriel différent, mais pas
moins réelle. Déconstruire le dualisme sujet-obje

trement de l'humain dans la lignée de Copernic et
Mais qu'est-ce exactement que la matérialité de l

ture les tendances et capacités de la conscience?)

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du comportement humain, un esprit né tel une page blanche dont la structure serait intégralement déterminée par la parentalité, la socialisation, l'acquisition du langage, etc. (la « science sociale standard » ou SSSM)

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. Mais cette conception de l'esprit est en train d'être évincée par les découvertes dans des domaines comme la neurobiologie, la psychologie cognitive ou l'évolution.

anthropologie. Ces découvertes mettent en évidence l'existence d'une conscience toujours inconsciente et plus empirique d'architectures neuronales spécifiques, issues d'expériences évolutives. La contribution principale de la psychologie cognitive est de montrer que l'esprit n'est pas une page blanche, mais qu'il est structuré par des processus évolutifs et sociaux.

une théorie de la subjectivité ne vient pas de son in-
comportement possède une fonction d'adaptation

tion d'une théorie computationnelle de l'esprit. C
compréhension de l'esprit reconnaît le cerveau co
de l'information. L'esprit ne s'assimile pas à tous
partage néanmoins avec lui la caractéristique for
informations – via les neurones plutôt que les cell
dites. D'après les psychologues évolutionnistes L

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la psychologie évolutionniste est basée sur la r
cerveau humain consiste en une large collectio
fonctionnellement spécialisés qui ont évolué d
d'adaptation régulièrement rencontrés par no
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des individus ordinaires est assuré de développer un ensemble de préférences, de motivations, de capacités, de programmes émotionnels, de procédures de raisonnement.

prétation spécialisés qui sont caractéristiques de cultures qui sous-tendent la variabilité culturelle exprimée.

tuent une définition précise de la nature humaine

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matérialisme» que le terme «post-Internet» pour décrire mon travail

ce dernier présente à tort ce type de travail comme ayant exclusivement

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En d'autres termes, l'esprit est préprogrammé et mentaux spécifiques – issus d'un processus évolu

tés définissant les façons dont il est capable de pe monde. Ces biais reflètent l'expérience des près d

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ayant vécu avant la révolution industrielle, ainsi qui leur ont succédé.

Les sciences humaines, mais surtout les arts, entr avec le sujet de l'évolution biologique, teinté d'un évolutionniste en général et la psychologie évolu raison de plusieurs incompréhensions fâcheuses

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. Par exemple autour de l'idée que la compétition est au cœur de l'évolution – ce

tion naturaliste aux élans les plus sombres de l'êt et le racisme –, ou de celle que formuler l'humain v est réducteur, ne permettant pas de saisir son ess

. Mais ces peurs

sont ancrées dans une méconnaissance de la vérité
de sa force créatrice et du mystère qui enveloppe
l'esprit. C'est d'autant plus regrettable que l'évolution
et unique force créatrice de l'Univers, ce qui se rattache
pourrait appeler un « créateur » – et pour laquelle
processus plutôt qu'une divinité. Un beau processus
l'infini. Pris dans le sens élargi d'évolution cosmique

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• Darwin a mis en évidence le double mécanisme de la sélection sexuelle comme responsable de l'évolution des plantes et des animaux. Nous savons toutefois aujourd'hui que d'autres facteurs prennent part, notamment la dérive génétique et les contraintes morphogénétiques des matériaux de construction des plantes ou animaux. Presque toutes les plantes ont le même schéma générique de croissance des feuilles, avec un angle typiquement de $137,5^\circ$, déterminé par les propriétés des cellules végétales, dont le collagène et d'autres.

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• La compétition biologique n'est qu'un des modes d'interaction entre les organismes. L'idée d'une compétition immorale au cours de laquelle l'un des organismes élimine l'autre est une autre incompréhension fâcheuse. La survie

est le résultat d'une sélection erronée des véritables mécanismes de la vie, de hiérarchie au sein de laquelle les organismes évoluent vers un état optimal ou dominant. L'adaptation ressemble

à un processus dynamique, constamment changeant, avec des pics et des creux, en fonction des conditions locales d'aptitude sélective, jamais

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des nombres et des schémas. Des effets émergents peuvent même
informatiques, comme l'a démontré John Horton Conway dans s
« jeu de la vie »

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est un simple automate cellulaire dans lequel des règles relationne
l'état des cases sur une grille à deux dimensions. Ces règles et conf
se combiner et aboutir à la formation de comportements émergen
eux-mêmes se combiner en de nouveaux niveaux de comporte
jeu de la vie
peut même simuler les composants logiques nécessaires d'une ma
mémoire ou les portes. Cela fait du jeu de la vie une machine de Tu
ordinateur capable de simuler tout autre ordinateur conventionn
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Manuel
DeLanda
et
Graham
Harman,
*Dialogue
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Esthétique de la contingence : matérialisme, évolution et art

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慎終追遠
民德歸厚矣



the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million (FAO 1996).

There are a number of reasons why the world's population is becoming more undernourished. First, the world's population is growing rapidly. The world population is projected to increase from 5.5 billion in 1990 to 7.5 billion in 2020 (UNEP 1992). This increase in population will place a greater demand on the world's food resources.

Second, the world's food resources are being depleted. The world's forests are being cleared at a rate of 100 million hectares per year (FAO 1996). This loss of forests is reducing the world's capacity to produce food. The world's fisheries are also being depleted. The world's fish stocks are being overfished, and this is reducing the world's capacity to produce food.

Third, the world's food resources are being distributed unevenly. The world's food resources are concentrated in a few countries, and this is leading to a growing food crisis in many developing countries. The world's food resources are also being used in a way that is not sustainable. The world's food resources are being used in a way that is depleting the world's natural resources.

There are a number of ways in which the world's food resources can be made more sustainable. First, the world's food resources can be protected. The world's forests can be protected, and the world's fisheries can be managed sustainably. This will help to ensure that the world's food resources are available for future generations.

Second, the world's food resources can be distributed more evenly. The world's food resources can be shared more equitably, and this will help to reduce the world's food crisis. The world's food resources can also be used in a way that is more sustainable. The world's food resources can be used in a way that is not depleting the world's natural resources.

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co-originares et connectés à travers des liens de

tition biologique n'est qu'un des modes d'interaction
Il ne s'agit que d'un des états des interactions selon

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manière des différents états des matériaux physiques
Au lieu de cela, la dynamique fondamentale de l'évolution est
contingence sous-jacente de la réalité. Est continu

toire et ce qui est inévitable – les contingences accidentelles

que les contraintes contingentes de l'environnement des plantes, des animaux, des quasars et des proto-étoiles qui est au cœur de l'évolution mais l'interdépendance à un niveau d'ordre cosmique, le changement et la

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Bien que fondamentalement motivé par des préoccupations tels que l'équité économique et sociale, le mode de

rie critique semble décrire une réalité en perpétuelle « pathologie » liée au capitalisme, au néolibéralisme

« techniques » du pouvoir qui orchestrent nos vies à leur insu de ces puissances comme si elles étaient dotées d'une volonté d'action propres, avec leurs propres besoins, désirs

évoquant « ce que veut le capitalisme » par exemple, de ces forces cachées sont compulsivement déchirées dans ce contexte que le « diagnostic » de la société est perpétuelle, provienne du prisme d'un discours millénaire. Bien que le monde soit loin d'être parfait et ait pris plus d'ampleur que jamais, la métaphore est appropriée pour décrire les luttes continues de l'époque sans souffrance ? Il n'est probablement

anthropomorphiser des systèmes sociaux émergents possesseurs d'une faculté d'action semblables à celle d'une tendance à attribuer à tort une faculté d'action collective à un biais cognitif d'origine évolutive

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. En reconnaissant les systèmes sociaux émer

gents impersonnels comme tels, peut-être pourro
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En intégrant la théorie de l'esprit comme système

mation, nous commençons à discerner la façon dont le
fétichisme de la marchandise, les sujets désincarnés et
la peur de la castration sont eux-mêmes des réifications
et éthiques évolutives du grand singe social qu'est l'homme.

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ainsi probablement la façon la plus précise de dé

nement et décentrement de l'humain nous permet
critiques axées sur le soupçon ou la maladie sans
vérité fondamentale des préoccupations morales
En positionnant l'humain au sein du devenir histo
histoire et de notre contexte évolutif, nous sommes
les valeurs altruistes du discours de la critique d'a

festations issues de l'évolution contingente de nos
sociaux. Cela permettra également de se rendre à
ne sont pas fixes et que nous pouvons jouer un rôle

tion future. Cette malléabilité ne déprécie en aucu
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Nicolas Bourriaud, *Esthétique relationnelle*, Les Presses du Réel, 199

vérité de l'éthique. Au contraire, en déconstruisant

main et la nature, nous pouvons élargir le cercle de
pour y intégrer la véritable subjectivité et la valeur

nismes non-humains. Bien que ne possédant peut-être
de langage, de culture ou de conscience que les êtres
animaux et autres organismes n'en sont pas moins
en lui-même, de manière décorrélée du sujet, de l'œuvre
culture, chacun est ainsi libre de croire en la vérité

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L'idée de la matérialité de l'esprit et, par voie de conséquence

ments cognitifs de la culture, a éveillé chez moi un intérêt pour l'esthétique de la publicité et de la culture populaire et omniprésents dans les conventions visuelles de la publicité, particulièrement intéressé. Ayant moi-même grandi en Allemagne (allemande, chinoise/mongole, amérindienne/états-unienne)

ment fasciné par l'existence de motifs invariables

reconnus – visages, aliments, symétries ritualisées, formes liquides satinées. Mon intuition était déjà que certains motifs visuels ne pouvaient être expliqués de manière satisfaisante. Des recherches supplémentaires en psychologie cognitive, en psychologie du marketing des consommateurs et en neurosciences ont découvert qu'ils étaient largement déterminés par l'évolution de l'esprit originaires d'un processus évolutif

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. En fait, les images de visages, d'aliments ou de liquides constituent des catégories fondamentales pour les cerveaux humains, et sont donc reconnues comme des objets ; leur reconnaissance débute très tôt dans la vie et est innée, ce qui possède même des structures neurologiques

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) dédiées pour les
traiter. Utilisant le concept de l'«attracteur» et d
de Manuel De Landa, j'ai imaginé les dynamique
l'espace des possibles des images. Cette réflexion

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C'est également ce qui a généré la fascination pour

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travail. Les marques appartiennent à une classe
Elles s'expriment à travers un écosystème de sign
nature de la conscience humaine et non en fonction
sélectionnées pour travailler avec les ressources
et activer différents réseaux de mémoire de façon
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a constitué ma première exploration de la
marque comme matériau. Je m’y intéressais spéc
et à la vacuité des acceptions associatives des sig
absence d’identité innée. J’ai étudié la manière d
«paix», le tai chi taoïste, ainsi qu’initialement la c
croissant islamiques – pouvaient être combinés p
de ces signes en un nouvel objet émergent.

À certains égards, mes incursions dans le monde

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gerie commerciale ont également constitué un dé
la théorie critique freudo-marxienne. Les (mauv

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Jerome
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Barkow
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The
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*evolutionary
psychology
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Oxford University Press, 1995, p. 23.
10.

Leda
Cosmides
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John
Tooby,
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Esthétique de la contingence : matérialisme, évolution et art

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courantes de mon travail pâtissent de cette perception. Le travail est fréquemment identifié à tort comme fautive mimesis capitaliste ou de la critique immanente, qui n'est pas assez claire ou affirmée, ou bien, au contraire, comme des « modalités hégémoniques » et des « logiques ».

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Voir le monde au travers d'un filtre idéologique d
comme signe idéologique limite sérieusement l'é
que la matière et la vie offrent. Ce mode d'interpr
occidentale remontant au christianisme de Desc
images mais également à une culture du soupçon
notre monde sont d'abord et avant tout perçus com
inhérentes, appartenant soit au bon côté «critiqu

talisme, du néolibéralisme, etc. Mais ce mode d'a
pas la connaissance de ce que le bouddhisme et le

fort longtemps : que les signes et les objets ne poss

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Tout n'est pas un « symptôme codé » du capitalisme
marques et logos, aussi incroyable que cela puisse
Dans la continuité de mon intérêt pour le

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religions constituent le plus grand obstacle à ce à

assument – leur propre rôle dans la trame du mon

temps que le monde de la critique d'art se débarr

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Brian
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*How
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Phoenix,
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Frank
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Poelwijk
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«Empirical
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445, 25 janvier 2005.

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Interactions », Nature News, Nature Publishing Group, 2002,

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Galleries P-S



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NEW PEACE

MIRRORSCAPE



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health sector has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care and services provided by the public sector. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Care Act 1999, which sets out a framework for the regulation of health care providers. The Act also sets out a number of objectives for the health care system, including the need to improve the quality of care and services, to ensure that care is safe and effective, and to ensure that care is accessible to all.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to improve the quality of care and services, including the introduction of a new system of regulation, the creation of a new body to regulate health care providers, and the introduction of a new system of accreditation. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is safe and effective, including the introduction of a new system of clinical governance, the introduction of a new system of patient safety, and the introduction of a new system of clinical audit.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is accessible to all, including the introduction of a new system of primary care, the introduction of a new system of community care, and the introduction of a new system of mental health care. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is affordable, including the introduction of a new system of health insurance, the introduction of a new system of health care financing, and the introduction of a new system of health care delivery.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high quality, including the introduction of a new system of quality assurance, the introduction of a new system of quality improvement, and the introduction of a new system of quality evaluation. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high value, including the introduction of a new system of value for money, the introduction of a new system of value for health, and the introduction of a new system of value for care.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high safety, including the introduction of a new system of safety assurance, the introduction of a new system of safety improvement, and the introduction of a new system of safety evaluation. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high effectiveness, including the introduction of a new system of effectiveness assurance, the introduction of a new system of effectiveness improvement, and the introduction of a new system of effectiveness evaluation.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high accessibility, including the introduction of a new system of accessibility assurance, the introduction of a new system of accessibility improvement, and the introduction of a new system of accessibility evaluation. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high affordability, including the introduction of a new system of affordability assurance, the introduction of a new system of affordability improvement, and the introduction of a new system of affordability evaluation.

The Health Care Act 1999 also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high quality, including the introduction of a new system of quality assurance, the introduction of a new system of quality improvement, and the introduction of a new system of quality evaluation. The Act also sets out a number of measures to ensure that care is of high value, including the introduction of a new system of value for money, the introduction of a new system of value for health, and the introduction of a new system of value for care.

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Contemporary art is involved in going beyond modern dualism and adopting a new approach in order to continue to describe and act upon the world. This new approach is the redefinition of the relationship between human and materiality and by replacing subjectivity and the mind in art. He advocates the particular relationship that artists have developed with materials, a highly generalist definition of materiality as the tendency of materials to play an active role in the creation of its own form: the artist is not alone, but rather in dialogue with it. The conceptual materials that have emerged since the sixties and seventies continue to be real materials with their own behaviors and causal forces. His thinking on branding is a product of his thinking on the mind and the cognitive foundations of culture, rather than a product of the market.

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The theoretical foundations of critical art discourse must shift at a fundamental level. Adherence to philosophical dualisms such as those between mind and matter, subject and object, material and imma

terial often implicitly pervade and frame contemporary critical discussions but the

reby distort the relationship between the human and the non-human.

In today's world, where material issues such as the acidification of the oceans, the desertification of grasslands, or the effects of carbon in the atmosphere have become

more urgent than ever, we find ourselves in a position where the validity of science and the very notion of truth is questioned, in politics, media, and the humanities. Critical art discourse in this regard stands on unsure footing: largely adopting a po

sitivist position on science—believing it as long as it works—but also unwilling to commit fully to a mind-independent

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Weary of the specter of reductivism and suspicious of any claims on the status of truth as more than a regime constructed

by vested interests, critical theory today finds itself obsessively self-examining its own hidden motivations and relations of power, meanwhile remaining largely im

potent in inspiring belief in, much less addressing, the pressing material issues of our times such as climate change.

Only through a repositioning of the human in relation to the non-human, by first expanding the notion of materiality, and second, by situating subjectivity within the contextual framework of evolution, can we break free from false dualisms while retaining, and even expanding, the truth of

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Foster surveys the state of critical art dis

course since the 2000s and describes it as in a state of fatigue caused by a ceaseless struggle to uncover the hidden signs of ca

pital—having discovered them everywhere including within the search itself. Stuck in a self-decrying feedback loop, criticism has itself been critiqued and charged with fetishizing the critique by philosophers such as Bruno Latour and Jaques Ran

cière. Foster presents this as a moment of crisis for critical art, a deflationary period for criticism which he calls the “post-cri

tical” for which he identifies no clear way

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According to Foster, the foundations of critical discourse to this day are still largely dominated by Freud and Marx (specifically via Lacan, Barthes, and Foucault) Central to these discourses is the concept of the subject. A subject is a unique point of view or consciousness in opposition to the concept of the object which is everything else. This dualism between subject and object is the foundational binary from which the others, mind vs. body, human vs. non-human, nature vs. culture, material vs. immaterial, unfold. These binaries however don't correspond to reality, and their supposition distorts the perception of

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Foster mentions the attempts at vita

lizing the agency of the object by Latour and Jane Bennett as a possible solution to the “post-critical”: a strain of thinking in which the object is anthropomorphized and seen as having a certain kind agency. However, Foster remains unconvinced be

cause of his own—self-admittedly “protes

tant at root” —“resistance to any operation

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whereby human constructs (God, the inter

net, an artwork) are projected above us
and granted an agency of their own.”*

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this way, Foster is unable to reject the sub

ject/object dualism out of ethical concerns:
that objects are ultimately not equal to hu

mans and shouldn't be treated as such.

However, the notion of the anthro

pomorphization of the object ultimately
misses the point of how to redefine the
relationship between the human and the
non-human in the first place. The necessa

ry step in dismantling the divide between
subject and object is not to grant objects
their own undeserved agency or conscious

ness and thereby raise them to the same
ethical status as humans. (Rocks obviously

shouldn't be thought of as having the same rights and agency as people.) But instead, the necessary step is to contextualize sub

jectivity, consciousness, and ethics as ari

sing from within the material.

As an artist, one inevitably develops relationships with various materials. Lear

ning how they behave and what they are capable of expressing and articulating.

How much tension certain types of wood or metal or plastics can take before they break, fold, twist, or burn. Owing largely to

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writings

by

Manuel

DeLanda,

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see materiality very broadly defined as the tendency and capacity of any system

(the terms material, system, and object are used interchangeably and I see them as more or less synonymous in my own practice). The materiality of reality is expressed in the characteristic ways in which systems of matter, energy, or information behave. All systems, from a lump of clay to a conceptual art piece, have characteristic tendencies and capacities in their causal interactions with the world and thereby express their own materiality. How wet clay or soap bubbles or cold butter express their material-ness in this world lies in their tendencies to behave in specific ways under specific conditions, such as when clay becomes hard as it is heated, whereas plastic melts. Under this expanded notion of materiality, things we traditionally have

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Foster,
“Post-Critical?”
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Criticism, Emergency (London: Verso, 2015),

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Aesthetics of Contingency: Materialism, Evolution and Art

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labeled as “immaterial” are understood to have a certain materiality after all, because, like any system, they have cha

racteristic tendencies and capacities as expressed in their internal dynamics and causal relations with the world. Thereby things like a novel, a poem, or an algo

rithm can also possess and express a real materiality, as reflected in the effects they have on the world.

One can think of the history of art as a process by which artists have explored the

expressive capacities of an ever-expanding set of materials, from ochre to software, from enamel to pop culture. However, as any artist knows, working with any ma

terial is always a negotiation between the priorities of the artist and the proclivities of the material itself. Knots, tensions, and thresholds constrain and characterize the morphological space of possibilities that any material can assume. In other words, matter takes an active role in the crea

tion of its own form. It is never the artist alone that gives form to a material, but the dialogue between artist and the material.

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dence of matter that makes any good artist an implicit materialist to some degree. In this sense, the “dematerialization of art” in the 60s and 70s was not a demate

rialization at all. In fact, this characteriza

tion is unfortunate in its continued implied dualism. Rather, artists became interested in diverse new classes of emergent mate

rials, such as scores and choreographies, social interactions, or language itself, each with its own characteristic dynamics and

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is the concept of
emergence. Emergence is the process by
which smaller things interact to create
larger things with unique properties that
are different from their components. Clas

sic examples of emergent systems are ant
colonies, slime molds, and flocks of birds.
Ants, for example, are able to display com

plex organized behavior at the level of the
colony that is not reducible to the indivi

dual ant. They explore and exploit their environments in ways no individual ant is able to direct or even to be aware of. But the combined effect of individual ants en

gaging in simple local behavior, like fol

lowing pheromone trails, emerges into the complex and agile behavior of the colony. Even the properties of physical mate

rials are emergent. For example, a single water molecule cannot be said to be either solid, liquid, or gas. Only the emergent behavior of the interactions between po

pulations of molecules can give water, steel, clay, or any stuff for that matter, its

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It is in this same way that we can think of language and culture as sets of nested emergent phenomena. When describing the ontological status of a fictional character through a materialist theory of language, DeLanda situates such objects as existing upon multiple layers of emergent systems, at the base of which there are “pulses of air shaped with our tongues and palates, or physical inscriptions. Above this basic layer ... another one develops through a progressive differentiation of simple mono

lithic (non-recombinable) words, a level of semantic content. Above this a level of syn

tax emerges (as the differentiated words become recombinable)... Once these emer

gent layers are in place, we can use them to create yet another level: stories, true or fictional, with characters whose identity is specified using syntax and semantics.”⁷

Having established the emergent mate

riality of any system, one can see how the diverse conceptual materials employed in contemporary art are still nonetheless pa

lettes of real materials with unique tenden

cies and capacities, behaviors and causal powers. However, not only are emergent systems of various kinds explored by ar

tists, but the artwork itself, since the 2000s or so, has also increasingly been sited in

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Manuel
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Philosophy (London: Continuum, 2002).

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Foster, *Bad New Days*, 176.

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Foster, *Bad New Days*, 121.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1995, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of women in its workforce. In 1995, 85% of the public sector workforce were women, compared with 75% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

Another reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are part-time or flexible. This is because the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work. These jobs are often part-time or flexible, which makes them more attractive to women.

A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well-paid. This is because the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work. These jobs are often well-paid, which makes them more attractive to women.

There are a number of other reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. For example, the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are secure, and it has a high proportion of jobs that are well-located. These factors also make the public sector an attractive employer for women.

In conclusion, the public sector has become an important employer of women in the UK. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of women in its workforce, a high proportion of jobs that are part-time or flexible, and a high proportion of jobs that are well-paid. These factors make the public sector an attractive employer for women.

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the relational, in the connections between and around the viewers, the works, and the artists. In essence, the relational turn in art was an explicit exploration of the emergent assemblage formed by an artwork and the viewer.

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objects where the tendencies and capaci

ties of human minds and bodies become component parts of the system. Of course, it can also be argued that the mind of the viewer has always implicitly been a neces

sary component of any artwork, and that ever since the first paintings of mammoths and mastodons on cave walls, artists have been exploiting the characteristic tenden

cies and capacities of the mind to interpret shapes and recognize depictions.

In order to convincingly replace the subject/object binary, one must situate the becoming of subjectivity itself within the material. That is, one should look to un

derstand how consciousness arises from the matter of our brains and bodies, and secondly to situate the brain's capacity to think, in the process by which it arose in the first place, namely our evolutionary

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The
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critical theory on the other hand is di

sembodied: a pure, monolithic, thinking
mind, transcendently separate from the
body. But this concept of the subject can

not explain the effects on consciousness
that things like traumatic brain injuries
or strokes have, sometimes disabling very
specific mental capacities or memories. It
also says nothing about our relationship
to other living beings, how consciousness
also arises in other organisms only qua

litatively different due to differing neural
and sensual hardware, but nonetheless just
as real. By deconstructing the subject/ob

ject duality one continues a decentering of the human in the tradition of Copernicus

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But what exactly is the materiality of mind? What structures the tendencies and capacities of consciousness? The sub

ject of psychoanalysis is based on a tabu

la rasa view of human behavior, a mind born with a blank slate whose structure is determined entirely by experience, paren

ting, socialization, language acquisition, etc. (known as the standard social science

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But this conception of the mind is being displaced by the discoveries of diverse discourses such as neurobiology, cognitive and evolutionary psychology, pri

matology, and anthropology. These disco

veries reveal a richer and more empirical understanding of consciousness, one that is always embodied within the hardware of specifically evolved neural architectures. The primary contribution of cognitive and evolutionary psychology to a theory of subjectivity comes not from an insistence that all behavior has adaptive function, but rather in integrating a computational theory of the mind. This new approach

to understanding the mind recognizes the brain as an information processing organ. Of course, the mind is not like a compu

ter in every regard but nonetheless shares the fundamental characteristic of proces

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tionary psychologists Leda Cosmides and John Tooby, “evolutionary psychology is based on the recognition that the human brain consists of a large collection of func

tionally specialized computational devices that evolved to solve the adaptive pro

blems regularly encountered by our hun

ter-gatherer ancestors. Because humans share a universal evolved architecture, all ordinary individuals reliably develop a distinctively human set of preferences, mo

tives, shared conceptual frameworks, emo

tion programs, content-specific reasoning procedures, and specialized interpretation systems—programs that operate beneath the surface of expressed cultural variabi

lity, and whose designs constitute a precise definition of human nature.”

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In other words, the mind comes pre

loaded with specific, evolved mental mo

dules, or tendencies and capacities for
the ways in which it is able to think and

5. While perhaps also not a perfectly suitable term,
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internet” in describing my and my colleague’s
work as the latter term falsely portrays this type
of work to be exclusively about the internet or
technology as a subject matter.

Aesthetics of Contingency: Materialism, Evolution and Art

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experience the world. These biases reflect the experience of the nearly 84,000 gene

rations of the genus *Homo* that has lived before the industrial revolution, as well as the mere 7 generations since.

The humanities and especially the arts have had an uneasy relationship with the topic of evolution. A distrust of evolutiona

ry thinking in general and in evolutionary psychology specifically comes from several unfortunate misconceptions.

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idea that the core of evolution is compe

tition, therefore naturalizing the darker human impulses like greed and racism, and secondly, that framing the human through the lens of biology is reductive, missing the essence of what it is to be human.¹²

But these fears are ultimately grounded in misunderstandings of real science and the true creative force and mystery of what it is discovering about evolution and the mind.

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evolution is after all the one and only creative force of the universe. It is the closest thing there is evidence for, to something we could call a creator. Rather than a god, it is a process. An undeniably fractal pro

cess of infinite, fractal, differentiation. In the expanded sense of cosmic evolution, it is the process behind all processes.

Darwin identified the twin mechanisms of natural selection and sexual selection as responsible for the evolution of the forms of plants and animals. However, today we know that other processes are involved as well, including random non-adaptive genetic drift, as well as the morphogene

tic constraints of the materials that plant and animal bodies are made from. For example, almost all plants on Earth fol

low the same generic leaf growth pattern (with a typical divergence angle of 137.5°) determined by the emergent properties of

the materials of the plant cells, including collagen and other proteins.

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Competition is merely one mode of interaction between organisms. The idea that competition lies at the heart of evolution and is therefore unethical stems from a notion of human nature that

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The idea of the survival of the fittest is a
mischaracterization of the real mecha

nisms of evolution. Rather than being a
hierarchy in which organisms compete to
be optimal or dominant, fitness is more
like an ever-shifting dynamic landscape

with temporary peaks and valleys of local

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Rather than existing in
opposition to one another, organisms are
co-originating and connected in complex
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one mode of interaction between orga

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like the varying phase states of physical materials such as solid, liquid, or gas. Ins

tead, the fundamental dynamic of cosmic evolution lies in the underlying contingen

cy of reality. Contingency is at once that which is unforeseen or random as well as that which is inevitable. The accidental contingencies of mutation as well as the contingent constraints of the environment that shape the bodies of plants, animals,

quasars, and protons. The heart of evolution is not competition, but the interrelatedness of all life, and at a cosmic level, the inescapable change and transformation of a
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Although fundamentally motivated by ethical concerns like economic and social equality for all, critical theory's primary mode of reflection today seems to describe a reality in a perpetual state of struggle or precarity, a "condition" in which the sickness is capitalism, neoliberalism, or the "hegemonic modalities" of power that govern our lives for their own benefit.

These powers are sometimes spoken of as

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Emergence

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of reality itself, inherent to the nature of numbers and patterns. Emergent effects can even occur in computer simulations as demonstrated in the John Conway's famous mathematical game of patterns, *The Game of Life*, a simple algorithmic cellular automata game where local rules of rela

tion either turn on or off squares in a grid. These simple rules and patterns can combine to create complex emergent behavior, where emergent patterned phenomena can be further combined into new levels of emergent behavior. *The Game of Life* can even simulate the necessary logical components of a computer itself like memory and and/or gates, thereby making *The Game of Life* a Universal Turing Machine—a computer able to simulate any other classical computer.

if they have a consciousness or agency of their own, with its own wants, desires, and causal powers, as when speaking of “what capitalism wants.” Signs and “symptoms” of these hidden forces are obsessively de

ciphered and revealed. But it should come as no surprise that the “diagnosis” of so

ciety as in a state of perpetual sickness comes partly through the prism of what was initially an early twentieth century medical discourse. Although the world is far from perfect, and political conscious

ness is as important today as it has ever been, perhaps sickness is not the most appropriate metaphor for the perennial struggles of living beings. When was there ever a time without suffering? Perhaps it is not appropriate to anthropomorphize emergent social systems either, thinking of them as possessing human-like agency. In

fact, the tendency to falsely assign agency to the world is an evolved cognitive bias

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By recognizing them as impersonal emergent social systems perhaps we can be more effective in changing them.

By integrating the information proces

sing theory of the mind, we can begin to see how such concepts as commodity fe

tishism, disembodied subjects, repressive drives, and castration fears are themselves abstracted reifications of evolved mental and ethical capacities of the social ape species *Homo sapiens* and may therefore not be the most accurate ways of descri

bing what is really going on. A repositio

ning and de-centering of the human will enable us to move away from the critical theory of suspicion and sickness while not abandoning the truth of fundamental ethi

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By situating the human within the concrete historical becoming of our evo

lutionary context and history, we can re
cognize how even the altruistic values

of critical art discourse are themselves contingently evolved manifestations of our social primate nature. We can also reco

gnize how values are not fixed and how we can take an active role in their future formation. However, in no way does this malleability degrade the status of the truth of ethics. To the contrary, by dismantling the human/nature binary, we can expand the ethical domain to integrate the real subjectivity and inherent value of non-hu

man organisms. While perhaps not posses

sing language, culture, or consciousness in the same ways that humans do, plants, ani

mals, and other organisms are nonetheless just as real. By believing in the real, uncor

related from the subject, mind, language, or culture, one is free to believe in the truth of the world and the truth of the other.

This idea of the materiality of the mind

and consequently the cognitive foundations of culture, led to my own fascination with the forms and aesthetics of advertising and popular culture. What interested me were the ubiquitous and repeated patterns in the conventions of popular images. Ha

ving myself grown up between multiple

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fascinated me the most were the patterns

that remained invariable across different cultures. Faces, foods, ritualized symme

tries, animals, and glossy, splashing li

quids. My hunch was that the strange ubi

quity of such image patterns could not be explained purely ideologically, and further research into cognitive and evolutionary psychology, consumer marketing psycho

logy, and neuroscience led me to discover that in fact they were largely determined by the evolved cognitive peculiarities of the mind.

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and liquids are special perceptual cate

ries for human brains, they are recognized faster than other objects, the recognition comes online earlier in child development, and they even have dedicated neural hard

ware structures to process them. Utilizing DeLanda's explanation of the concept of the attractor and the materiality of culture,

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termining the possibility space of images. This thinking led to several of my early se

ries: “Selection Display”, “Axe Effect”, and the “Mainstream (Transformers)” series.

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Manuel
DeLanda
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Harman,

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of Realism (Cambridge: Polity, 2017), 15.

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Nicolas
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Aesthetics of Contingency: Materialism, Evolution and Art

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Accordingly this is also what led to the fascination with branding in my work. Brands are a class of emergent material objects as well. They express themselves through an ecosystem of signifiers and func

tion as they do because of the nature of human consciousness—not ideology. They are selec

ted to work with the limited resources of co

gnitive attention and activate various memo

ry networks in order to associate and create

new meanings. The brand PEACE was my first exploration into the brand as material. In this case, I was specifically interested in how the associative meanings of signifiers are malleable and ultimately empty, in the Taoist sense that is, lacking any innate iden-

tity. I was interested in how multiple signs, the word “peace,” the Taoist Taiji (and ini-

tially, the Christian cross and the Islamic star and crescent), could be combined and thereby transmute the meaning of its compo-

nent signs into a new emergent object.

My forays into branding and commer-

cial imagery have also been my way to di-

rectly challenge to the established lens of Freudo-Marxist critical theory. A common (mis-)interpretations of my practice derives suffer from this traditional dualistic framing. Any collapse of the nature/culture divide is viewed with suspicion due to the previously

discussed pervasive mischaracterizations of evolutionary science¹⁸, and because of the use of commercial aesthetics my work is most often misidentified as belonging to the genres of capitalist mimesis and immanent critique, in which the “signs of capital” are muddled and pushed to exacerbate the contra-

dictions of the “neoliberal order”.

¹
⁹ However by viewing the world through an ideological filter in which everything is also interpreted as an ideological sign se-

riously delimits the full range of possible mea-

nings that matter and life have to offer. This mode of interpretation, a product of western thought whose lineage can be traced back to the Christianity of Descartes, as employed today, results in a form of stereotyping of images, not to mention a culture of suspicion. Seeing the objects and images that populate our world first and foremost as possessing inherent allegiances, either belonging to the good side of the “critical” or else to the dark side of capitalism, neoliberalism, etc. But this reactionary mode of analysis fails to integrate the knowledge of what Buddhism and Taoism discovered long ago: that signs and objects do not possess any inherent, essential identity. Not everything is a “symptomatic cypher” of capitalism, not even brands and logos if one

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(New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 23.
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Nature 445 (January 25, 2005).

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Evolutionary Stable Strategies and the Evolution

of Biological Interactions,” *Nature Education*

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million. The number of people who are malnourished has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people who are obese has increased from 100 million to 300 million.

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the problem of malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global strategy to reduce malnutrition. The strategy is based on three pillars: (1) improving the quality of food, (2) increasing the availability of food, and (3) improving the utilization of food.

The WHO strategy is based on the following principles: (1) food should be safe, nutritious, and available; (2) food should be affordable; (3) food should be culturally acceptable; (4) food should be accessible; and (5) food should be sustainable.

The WHO strategy is based on the following objectives: (1) to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition; (2) to improve the quality of food; (3) to increase the availability of food; (4) to improve the utilization of food; and (5) to ensure that food is safe, nutritious, and available.

The WHO strategy is based on the following actions: (1) to improve the quality of food; (2) to increase the availability of food; (3) to improve the utilization of food; and (4) to ensure that food is safe, nutritious, and available.

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Continuing my interest in branding
and the cognitive foundations of culture, I
have rebranded PEACE into New Peace.
The aim of this project is to use the tools
and insights of branding and marketing (as
practices of cognitive interface) to imagine
a new form of non-dualistic and secular spi

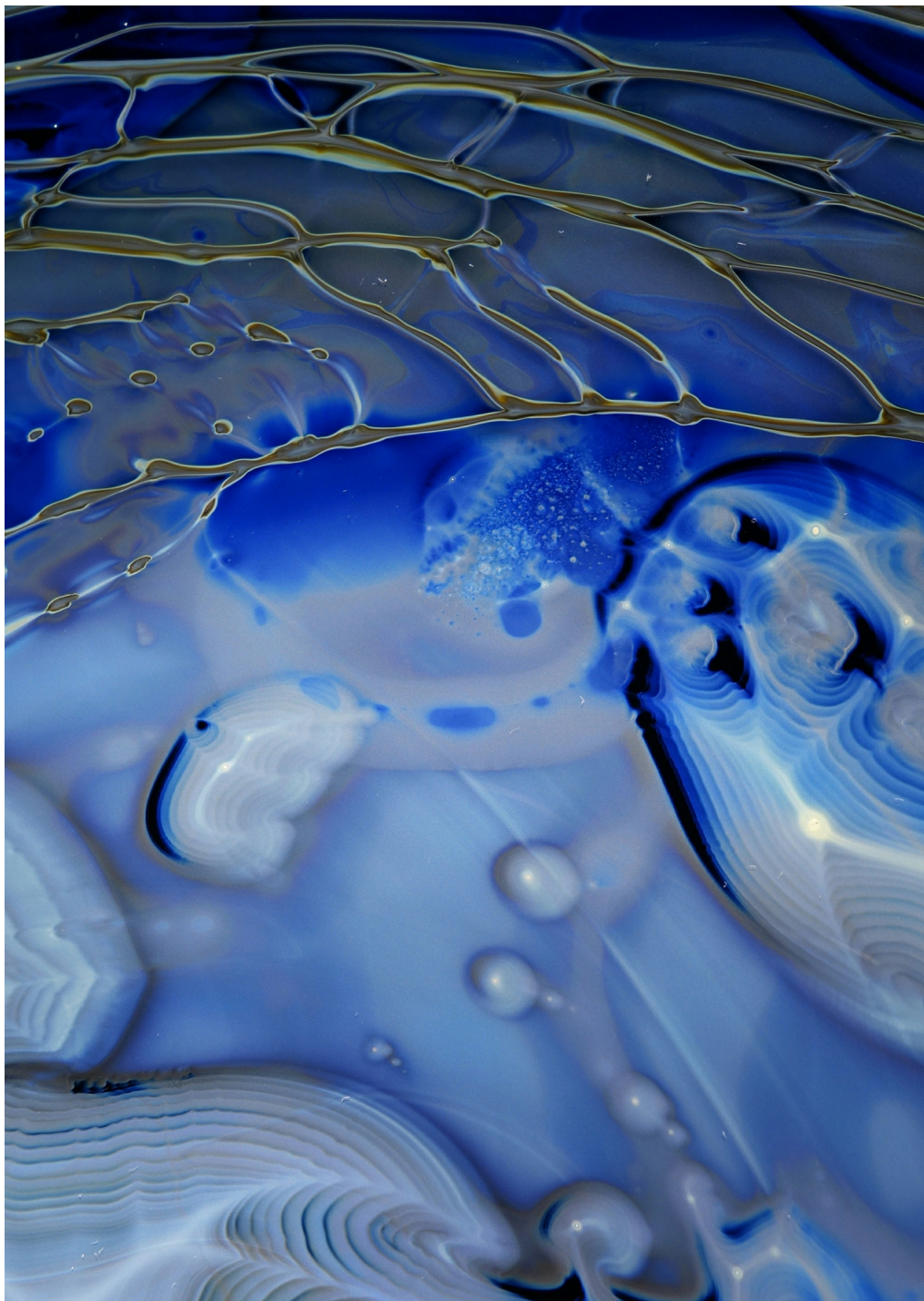
rituality. One in which the infinite creativity
of matter itself is worshipped. Ultimately,

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of religions as being the biggest obstacle
to humans believing in and assuming their
proper role in the tapestry of the living and
material world. It is time for the world of
critical art to shed its naiveties about the
separation between humans and nature.
Let us welcome a shift that in its richness
allows us to properly reflect on and effec

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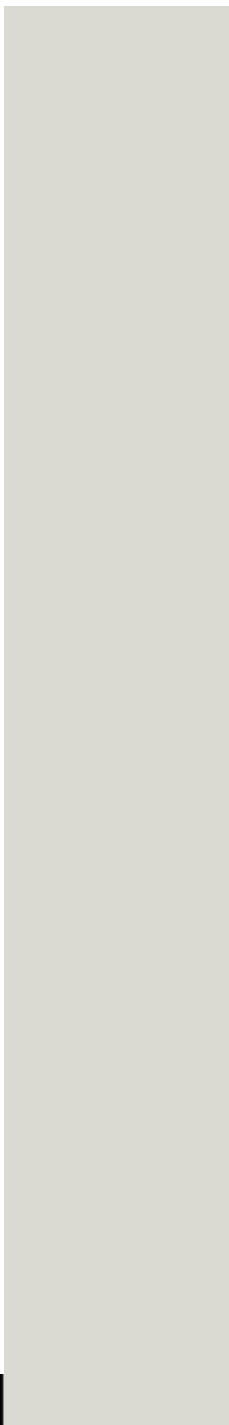
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Vous êtes le fondateur du Laboratoire et professeur

Vous vous décrivez vous-même comme un « inventeur »

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Ce qui m'intéresse, c'est d'inventer l'avenir de l'humain, impossible sans une participation culturelle collective. Dans le domaine des mathématiques appliquées et, étendu à la médecine, j'ai été amené à considérer la question de l'insuline et des injections. C'était un sujet important pour l'humanité à la fin des années 1990, et j'ai inventé une nouvelle façon de faire et plus simple que ce qui se pratiquait à l'époque. J'ai travaillé sur de nouveaux types de thérapies et vaccins pour le VIH et la tuberculose. Ces dix dernières années, j'ai été très actif en public, dans un dialogue créatif, via Le Laboratoire.

, d'abord à Paris, puis à

Boston. Toutes mes inventions ont un lien avec la manière générale, le design sensoriel. Un lieu comme le public à participer à l'expérimentation, est idéalement sensoriel et sa portée sur notre mode de vie futur, dans les domaines de la santé, de l'alimentation et de l'environnement, notre vie sensorielle de façon à ce que nous puissions garantir un développement durable? Dans la pratique, nous ne savons pas comment nous y prendre. En réalité, les conditions existent pour que nous vivions de façon durable, mais nous ne demandons pas à vivre convenablement. En un sens, car un grand nombre de nos habitudes de vie sont durables. Nous devons changer le comportement humain. C'est ce qui m'intéresse, et la plupart de mes inventions

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C'est également au cœur de nos problématiques durable? Comment changer nos comportements pour aider à réduire notre impact sur l'environnement?

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Changer le monde et le comportement humain est un défi. Il commence, du point de vue de l'inventeur, par une prise d'attentive des gens, mais aussi par une communication sous un mode d'expression esthétique. Ce dialogue sur l'avenir est une question culturelle. Je considère la culture vivante comme une conversation sur demain. Demain est inévitablement différent. Il a existé, il existera un jour, en dehors de notre imagination. Mais aucune idée de ce dont il sera fait. Personne ne le sait. Les plus intéressants le contraire sont les plus ignorants de tous. Fondamentalement, les idées intéressantes ne peuvent être dites que par le biais d'un langage.

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Nous avons donc inventé des choses comme des e
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il s'agissait foncièrement d'idées culturelles. Leu
aucun cas évident. Même si on arrivait à le rendre

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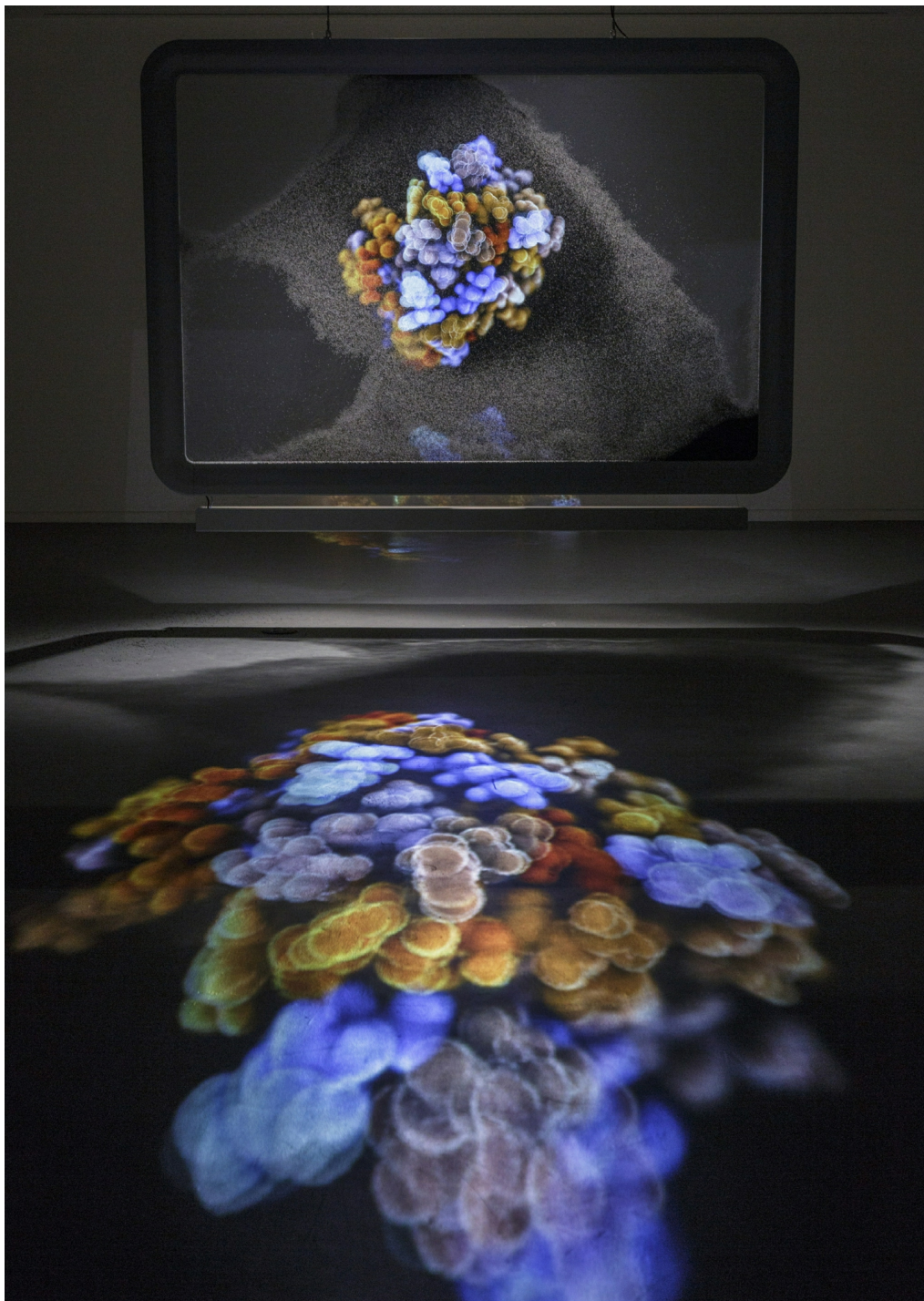
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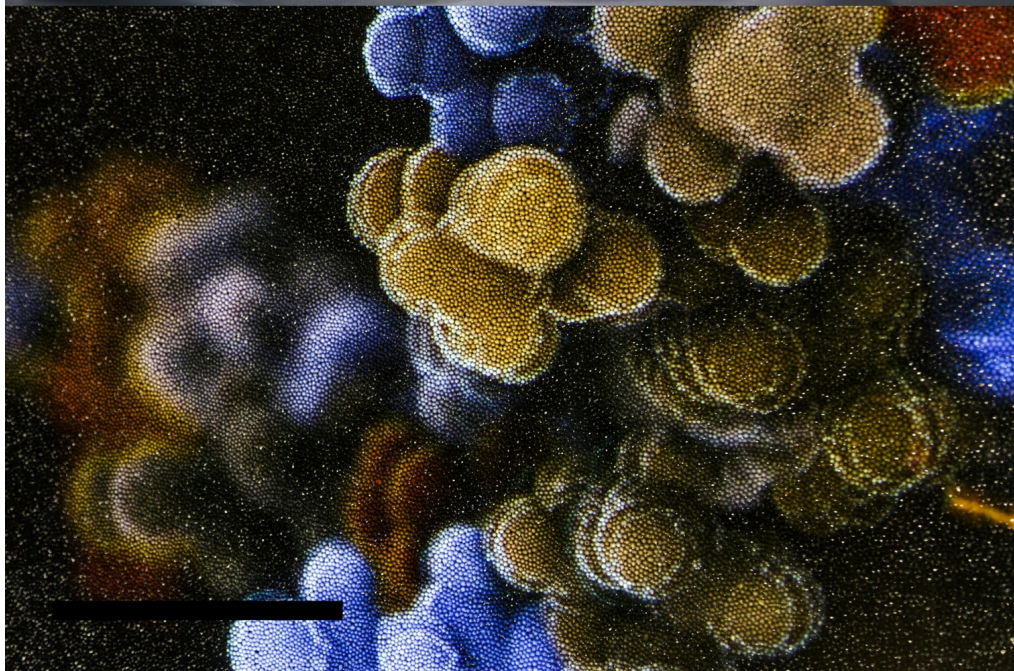
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public à découvrir la création culturelle aux frontières de la science





de manger un emballage? Comment le vendre? L
De telles conceptions de l'avenir sont très éloigné
intéressantes à considérer, comment les faire évo
devons pour cela créer un environnement où le dis
pense que pour aborder le sujet de l'avenir, il est in
phases : la première consiste à entrer en relation a
à apprendre de leurs différentes expertises. C'est
nouvelles idées. Il faut ensuite un endroit pour exp
échouer, payer le prix en un sens. Et enfin, il faut s
en créant des formes d'interventions durables. Si
communautés les plus créatives, comme la Silico
ou Boston pour les biotechnologies, ces trois pha
par exemple, dans les start-up ou chez Apple. Ces

font appel à différentes valeurs, et leur coexistence
nous essayons de faire au Laboratoire, et ce qui s

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Il y a quelque chose de particulièrement intéressant dans la relation les arts et les sciences naturelles...

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Je trouve l'ArtScience fascinant. C'est aussi peu intuitif mais c'est pourtant un principe de création vieux de 2000 ans. Les choses qui résistent au temps – et qui sont programmées pour être intuitifs et déductifs – sont performatives. Les choses qui résistent au temps – et

qui résultent d'un mélange de processus que nous séparons en institutions. Ces derniers siècles, nous avons perdu la notion de simples relatives à notre survie. Grâce aux sciences parallèles de la technologie, nous sommes devenus de plus en plus du changement instantané et d'une approche du futur. L'intuition, l'incertitude ou l'ambiguïté n'avaient

Cela a entraîné d'énormes changements, des avancées, mais c'est une évolution qui n'était pas soutenable. Ces défis de la durabilité – nous avons créé un monde qui ne va pas durer – a entraîné un afflux des ressources pour faire face à la pollution, sur l'environnement, la santé, le bien-être et la culture. Les artistes ont été également poussés à développer des créations sur ce sujet. Cette espace de créativité est l'endroit où les disciplines oscillant naturellement entre les arts et les sciences se rencontrent. Cela explique pourquoi des organisations comme la MIT ont émergé, et pourquoi nous voyons aujourd'hui des

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chefs, parfumeurs, ingénieurs et autres – collaborer. Je ne faisais pas partie de ce mouvement, mais je suis loin d'être le seul. De nombreux laboratoires ont un espace dédié aux arts pour s'exprimer, ce qui est bénéfique pour la recherche. Les étudiants de l'université d'Harvard vivent dans un monde beaucoup plus proche de celui dans lequel nous avons grandi. Mon intuition était que ce qui semblait extrême il y a dix ans, ne le sera bientôt.

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L'architecture se situe dans cet espace liminal se confrontant à la durabilité. Il est crucial que scientifiques – avec le big data et le computationnel – et la sensibilité esthétique et à la singularité. Explorons le design, travaillé avec des designers, mais peut-être au

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Oui. Le design et l'architecture sont, en quelque s

emblématiques de l'ArtScience. Ce qui m'intéresse
au design et à l'architecture de changer constamment
aujourd'hui, de façon à ce qu'ils relèvent moins de
pour véritablement devenir des pratiques de recherche
suis très intrigué par le fait que le design et l'architecture
vers l'expression d'un procédé esthétique, qu'ils cherchent
par lequel nous exprimons le changement, un lexique

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Comment voyez-vous l'avenir des liens entre h

La distinction entre artificiel et naturel est aujourd'hui
Sans même parler des prothèses ou autres associations
de l'artificiel, la réalité c'est qu'il y a tellement de liens
notre biologie et de notre écologie au sens large que
un mode d'évolution rapide. L'homme est en train de
Qu'il s'agisse de nos vêtements ou du design urbain
et l'environnement s'efface. Certains des travaux de
ou en architecture explorent cette relation symbiotique

vivant dans laquelle la technologie joue un rôle central
s'accompagne en parallèle de remarquables avancées
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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million. The number of people who are malnourished has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people who are obese has increased from 100 million to 300 million.

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the problem of malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global strategy to reduce malnutrition. The strategy is based on three pillars: (1) improving the quality of food, (2) improving the availability of food, and (3) improving the utilization of food.

The first pillar, improving the quality of food, is the most important. It is the foundation of the other two pillars. Without good quality food, the other two pillars are meaningless. The WHO has identified several key areas for improving the quality of food: (1) increasing the production of healthy foods, (2) reducing the loss of nutrients during food processing, and (3) reducing the loss of nutrients during food storage.

The second pillar, improving the availability of food, is also important. It is the foundation of the other two pillars. Without sufficient food, the other two pillars are meaningless. The WHO has identified several key areas for improving the availability of food: (1) increasing the production of food, (2) reducing the loss of food during transport, and (3) reducing the loss of food during storage.

The third pillar, improving the utilization of food, is the most important. It is the foundation of the other two pillars. Without good utilization of food, the other two pillars are meaningless. The WHO has identified several key areas for improving the utilization of food: (1) increasing the consumption of healthy foods, (2) reducing the loss of nutrients during digestion, and (3) reducing the loss of nutrients during excretion.

The WHO has identified several key areas for improving the utilization of food: (1) increasing the consumption of healthy foods, (2) reducing the loss of nutrients during digestion, and (3) reducing the loss of nutrients during excretion. The WHO has identified several key areas for improving the utilization of food: (1) increasing the consumption of healthy foods, (2) reducing the loss of nutrients during digestion, and (3) reducing the loss of nutrients during excretion.

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Addressing the complexity of contemporary issues requires a new kind of knowledge, exploring the links that exist between disciplines, notably with contemporary art. David Edwards explains how his work in the fields of health and the environment led him toward sensorial design and the cultural dimension of engineering. For this he founded the ArtScience Center in Boston, a space that explores the frontiers of art and science. In his work and in experimentation he studies the future of design and our relationship with the world. It requires efficient communication on an aesthetic level. This is the mission of the art. "ArtScience" thus brings together creative principles that bridge the gap between the intuitive and the deductive. For Edwards, the mission of architecture explores the symbiotic relationship of the living and the built environment.

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You are the founder of Le Laboratoire*

and a professor at Harvard University.
You describe yourself as an “inventor,”
but what do you invent?

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I’m interested in inventing the human future. I think this is impossible today without collective cultural participation. My early work related to applied mathematics and, given the nature of my part of the world, I was moved to consider the problem of inhaled insulin. Eliminating injections for the delivery of insulin was a big focus of the pharmaceutical industry in the late 90s, and I invented a new way to do it, more cheaply and simply than was common at the time. I continued to invent new therapies and vaccines for infectious diseases like tuberculosis. For the last

ten years, I've been in a much more direct creative dialogue with the public, via Le Laboratoire first in Paris, and then here in Boston. All of my inventions have been related to health and the environment and, in general, sensorial design. A place like Le Laboratoire, which invites the public to participate in experimentation, is well suited to exploring sensory design and what it means to how we will live tomorrow, a major issue right now in healthcare, food, and the environment. How do we design our sensory life so that we are actually able to thrive while contributing to a sustainable planet? We don't know how to do that in contemporary conditions. Actually, technologies exist, as does the science, to live in this sustainable way. It's just that we are not living properly, or not asking to live properly. It's not our fault in a

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The Laboratory is a center for artistic experimentation, innovation and design that invites the public to discover cultural creation on the frontiers of science. Ed.

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way, many of our life habits go back to our primitive survival. We need to change human behavior. This is a very hard thing to do, so I'm interested in that and most of my inventions relate to that.

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This is at the core of the questions we are trying to answer with our research—how can we build a sustainable world? How can we achieve this change in behavior? And can technology help us reduce our impact on the planet?

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Changing the world and changing human behavior is a collective act. It begins, from an inventor's perspective, with listening to and watching people very carefully and communicating

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dialogue about the future is fundamentally the matter of culture. I view living culture at any given moment as a conversation about tomorrow. Tomorrow is inevitably ambiguous—the future has never existed outside our imagination—and so people have no clue, none of us does. Anybody who says they have a clue, is the most clueless of all. Whatever relevant thing that can be said is inevitably an artistic expression or a work of art.

So, we have invented things like edible packaging or breathable food, or digital scent. These were all, at the moment of

their invention, fundamentally cultural ideas. As practical ideas, none of these things were obvious. Even if you could make edible packaging would anybody want to actually eat it? Or would anybody be able to sell it? This was hardly a commercial idea. While interesting to contemplate, such ideas about the future are so far removed from reality, so what do you do to help them evolve? You create an environment where that cultural

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future, it's important to respect three process phases. The first involves engaging with and learning from different people with different expertise, who will surprise you. This leads to new ideas. Then, you need a place of experimentation where you're able to take risks and fail, and pay a price in a certain sense. Finally, you need to actually take the ideas to people and create sustainable kinds of interventions. If you look at the most creative cultures or communities,

like Silicon Valley for tech or Boston for biotech, these three phases are evident, for instance in the existence of Stanford, valley startups, and Apple. These phases or environments involve different kinds of values really, and their coexistence is critical, which is what we try to manage here at Le Laboratoire and in all my work.

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There is something particularly inte

resting in the way you connect art and

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ArtScience is fascinating. It is as non-intuitive as the name suggests and yet the oldest principle of creation. Our brains are programmed to be intuitive and deductive in their most performative. The

things that have endured the most when it comes to human creation came about through a mix of processes we separate today in our institutions. Over the last few hundred years, we have lost sight of the most basic ideas of our survival. With the insights of modern science, and the parallel advance of technology, we have grown adept at rapid innovation, rapid change, and a kind of hyper-deductive approach to the future, as if intuition, uncertainty, and ambiguity had secondary relevance. This has led to massive change, and many amazing advances. But it has also led to a dearth of sustainability. Over the last couple of decades, this challenge of sustainability—we have created a remarkable world, and it cannot last

has promoted a movement of resources to long-term thinking, related to the environment, health, wellness, and culture generally. It has also led to a movement

of creators toward long-view thinking and creating. This zone of creative activity is where the aesthetic process flourishes, moving naturally between the arts and sciences, and its expansion explains why organizations like mine, Le Laboratoire, have emerged, and we now find artists

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and creating tomorrow. I am part of
this movement. I am hardly alone. Here
in the Harvard-MIT area, there are
multiple labs that have dedicated lab
space to artists, where artists are invited

to be artists, to the benefit of the overall research agenda. The students who come to Harvard University are also living in so much more of an

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than the one we grew up in. My intuition
is that this way of thinking, which seemed
so extreme just ten years ago, will not
appear so extreme at all ten years

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Architecture falls somewhere in the

liminal spaces between technology and art when confronting sustainability. It's critical that in our design process we are simultaneously thinking as the scientist with big data and computational engineering whilst also being open to aesthetic sensibility and individuality. Have you ever had to approach that?

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with architects as well?

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Yes. Design and architecture are sort of canonical practices of artscience as you say. What interests me is where design and architecture are asked to change, constantly, as I think they are today, so that they are less practices of hypothesis and optimization and more practices of research and experimentation. I am really intrigued by the notion that design and architecture are moving toward a navigation or expression of aesthetic processes, that they become a kind of language by which we express change, a vocabulary of our conversation

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How do you think we will combine huma

nity, technology, and nature in the future?

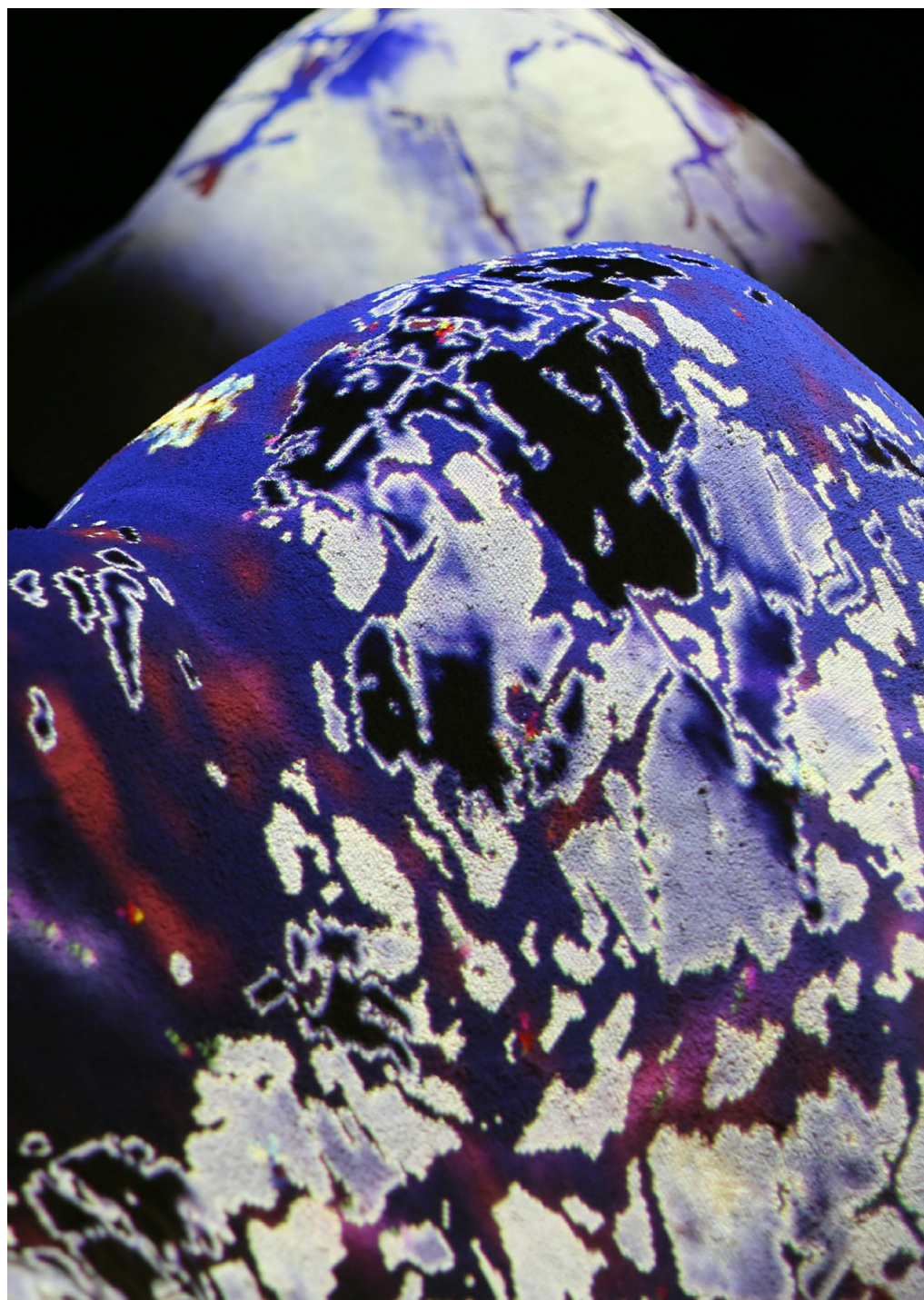
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We are in an era right now where the distinction between the artificial and the natural is vanishing. Even if we ignore issues like prosthetics and other obvious composites of the natural and the artificial, the reality is that there is so much real-time modification of our own biology and of our ecology generally speaking that we are in this rapid evolutionary mode. We are blending into the artificial. Whether it is our clothing or the urban design around us, the boundary between the living creature and the environment is disappearing. Some of the most interesting work happening in design and architecture has to do with this symbiotic relationship between the living and the non-living, and technology plays a critical role in that. This phenomenon of fusion is also accompanying a remarkable advance in our understanding of the

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Haru Ji, Graham Wakefield

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK with a mental health problem has increased by 50% (Mental Health Foundation 1999). The prevalence of mental health problems in the UK is estimated to be 10% (Mental Health Foundation 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of people with mental health problems in the workplace. The UK government has introduced legislation to protect the rights of people with mental health problems in the workplace (Mental Health Act 1983, Employment Rights Act 1996). The UK government has also introduced measures to support people with mental health problems in the workplace (Mental Health Act 1983, Employment Rights Act 1996).

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Les êtres humains ont toujours cherché l'inspiration qu'artistes, nous nous inscrivons dans cette lignée «natures artificielles»: des installations artistiques humains au cœur de systèmes complexes inspirés à expérimenter dans une forme de réalité mixte immersive. Le spectateur à devenir part d'un écosystème, au sein d'un

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vivants, sans en être le sujet principal. Même si le

rées par ordinateur, nous tirons notre inspiration

la nature pour développer une esthétique merveilleuse

explorations de l'enfance. En donnant vie à une re

futurs inévitablement saturés de communication

tées. La science computationnelle n'est cependant

en opposition avec la nature ; au contraire, nous la

matériel de plonger encore plus profondément da

ver notre place en elle.

Un thème commun aux différents principes à par

est l'importance de l'

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: tout ce que nous voyons ou faisons, tout ce qui se développe le fait depuis l'intérieur. Nous sommes l'ensemble de ce que nous voyons et entendons est

giques continues ; toutes les parties sont liées les unes

fets sans conséquences, pas de notations supplémentaires. La vie est un jeu infini évoluant de l'intérieur. L'intérieur naturel sont pour les visiteurs une invitation à faire

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, de façon à ce qu'ils découvrent par eux-mêmes sans

si nous créons les installations, nous essayons au
depuis l'intérieur même de cet environnement, en
tandis qu'il continue à croître autour de nous.)

Notre esthétique est profondément influencée par
fonctionne, y compris les nombreuses connexions
existent au-delà et en deçà des échelles humaines
égard, nous nous inspirons de la théorie des systèmes
d'autres recherches en systèmes et simulation qui
par mécanisme. À partir de nos premiers et plus s
des mondes comme autant de systèmes fondés sur

tagés. Notre objectif n'est pas de fabriquer des cr
question « vos créatures s'échapperont-elles un j
peuvent exister en dehors de leur environnement,
peuvent quitter la Terre sans emporter et mainte
de biosphère. Les capacités de fuite individuelle r

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Un monde commence par de multiples champs in
fluides, topographies, températures, concentrati

tions, etc. Toute vie doit trouver ses ressources da

sant inévitablement des traces. Les systèmes mé
énergie suffisante pour survivre, et chaque activi
énergie, y compris pour croître ou pour le seul mé
également communiquer via l'environnement, pa
«phéromones» que d'autres pourront suivre. De f
que toute nouvelle addition au monde doit s'intég
autres composants (y compris les êtres humains)

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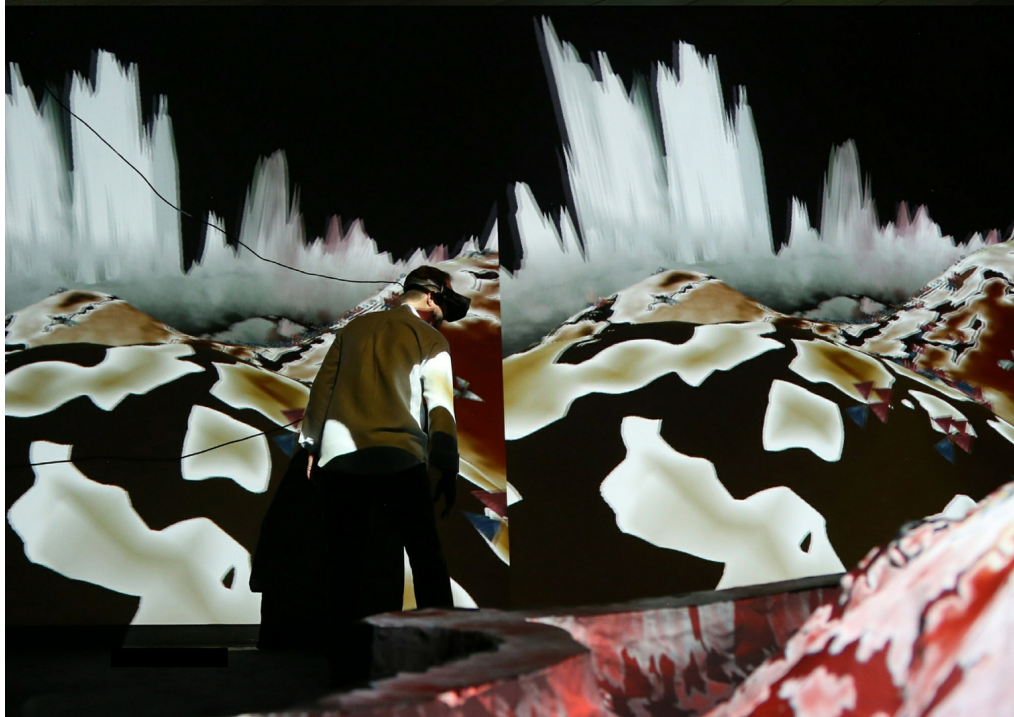
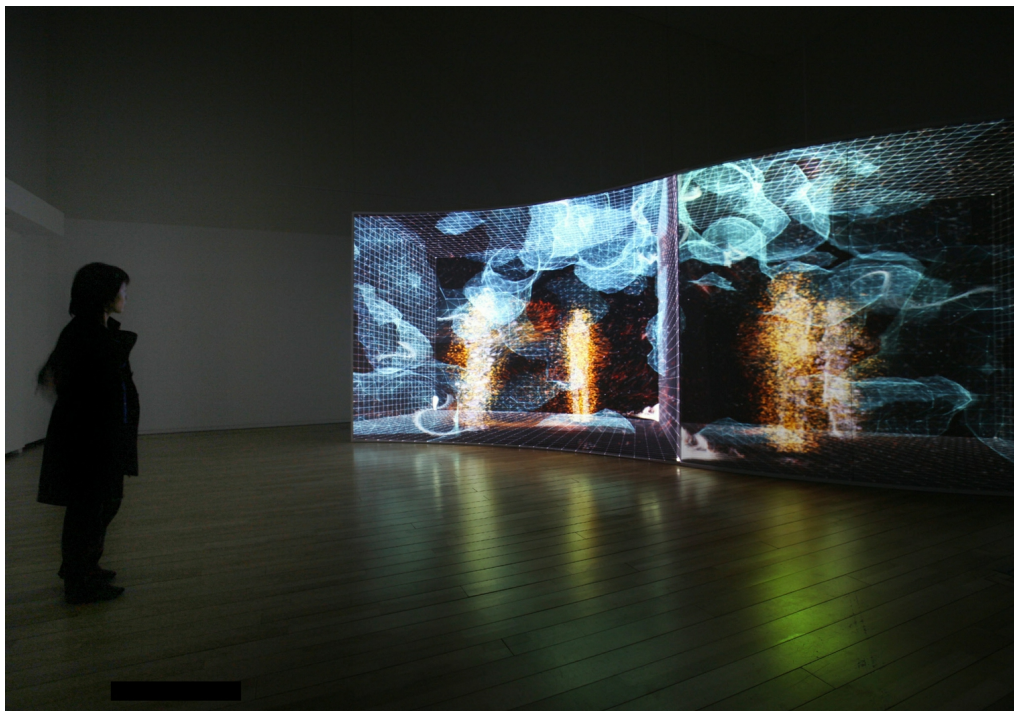
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Nous programmons les interfaces et limites de ces règles, dont plusieurs sont probabilistes et sensibles. Cet univers n'est ni entièrement préprogrammé, ni y a assez d'espace pour que les organismes se développent autodéterminés, créant leurs propres règles et limites.

tion aux changements de leur monde. Les créatures

tiques héritées, sous des formes beaucoup plus simples, régulent néanmoins les variations comportementales de l'individu. Ces adaptations sont parfois partagées par transfert horizontal de gène bactérien

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, mais elles peuvent s'exprimer bien plus rapidement au niveau du groupe, comme c'est le cas

2

.

Comme l'a souligné Henri Bergson il y a un siècle, la vie est à la similitude, la stase, la symétrie et la prévisibilité d'assimilation et les moyennes de l'entropie. Substrats vivants tendent à créer de nouvelles orientations,

veaux sens, de nouvelles qualités. Un monde se fait

Incorporer une capacité de «quasi-vie» dans nos
tation de la fréquence des événements rares, sans
rareté, c'est-à-dire des événements dont le discer
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résistant ainsi à la simplification quantitative et
la créativité de la vie n'est pas un problème prédé
à l'avance. La vie est ce qui diffère de soi-même, c
dans de nouveaux paradigmes. Heureusement, la
nouvelles règles comme code sont essentielles en
cette capacité non conventionnelle, de «second o
la science computationnelle possible. C'est pour c
de génération de code en temps réel : chaque fois c
centaines par minute), nous générons un nouveau

sur les mutations uniques de son héritage génétique

gramme en code natif pour des questions de vitesse
à lui seul assurer une créativité durable, il permet
sans compromettre la boucle expérientielle de

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Ce que nous pouvons construire aujourd’hui est ce
arrivons concevoir, et ce que nous imaginons est ce
elle-même. L’évolution artificielle, telle que décrite
la façon dont nous pouvons remplacer l’agrégation
des processus progressifs permettant leur émergence
structures non préconçues. L’extension de ce principe
promet un avenir plus autopoïétique

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à celui-ci, mais cela reste dif

ficile à réaliser, notamment parce que cela exige
du principe de contrôle. Pour chaque installation
système de façon à atteindre le point d'équilibre e
état où il est plus réactif et facilement excitable d

sition. Mais les conditions artificielles que nous d
cet état d'équilibre peuvent entraver des niveaux

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N.D.E.:

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2.

N.D.E.:

Les
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générées par mutation au sein d'un organisme hôte. C'est le cas du
du fait de l'apparition de résistances successives à chaque traitem

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N.D.E.:

L'autopoïèse

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interaction avec son environnement, et ainsi de maintenir son org

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N.D.E.:

Doctrine

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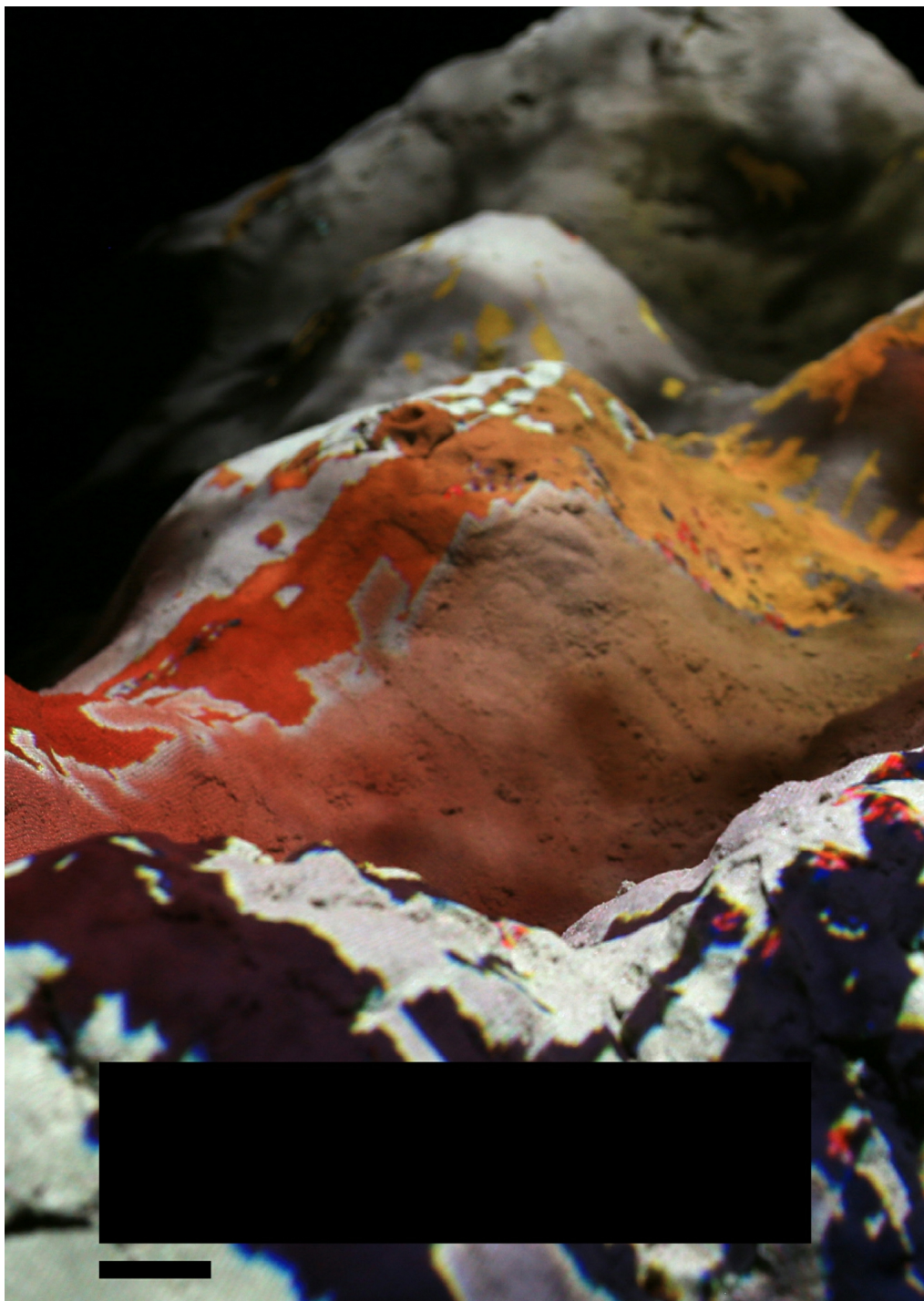
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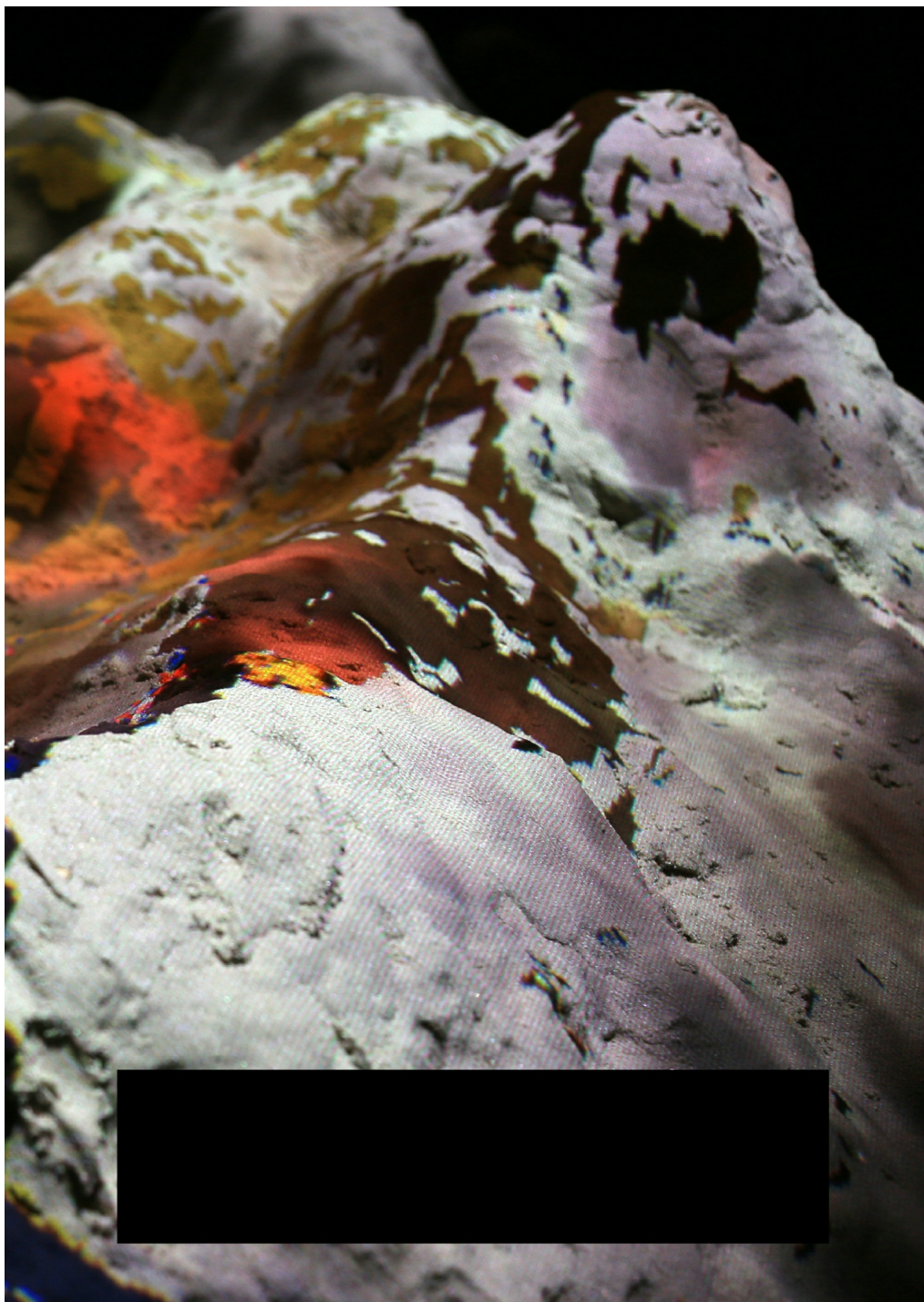
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qu'interviennent des principes extrinsèques. Les choses, la matière
représentation du monde signifie que toute matière est vivante, qu

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Haru Ji, Graham Wakefield





d'autonomie. Nous sommes ainsi ravis de développer des projets susceptibles de fonctionner dans des espaces de plus longue durée d'engagement mutuel. Il s'agit d'afin que nous puissions grandir ensemble.

Il est essentiel que le visiteur soit enveloppé par le

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du monde, via l'interface et ses interactions, conduisant

l'évolution de l'art computationnel vers un niveau expérimental du monde naturel, tout en restant différent. Nous avons la capacité à saisir des ensembles naturels à travers

des représentations abstraites et des récits linéaires A, B, C. Il s'agit de la complexité d'un écosystème dans toutes ses relations

vues singulières. Nos travaux sont donc volontair

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propose par exemple la coexistence de multiples
des mondes-miroirs, tandis qu'

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permet la coexistence de mondes multiples
dans le même espace physique, avec de multiples
première personne, à la deuxième et d'un point de
Dans la mesure du possible, nous utilisons des mo
indirects, car nous préférons une bidirectionnali

port de cause à effet symbolique. Les organismes
à un environnement que vous avez pour partie faç
influencé le courant des vents, ou votre moi virtuel
organismes... Les interactions dans la nature son
constructives à la fois. Dans

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, votre ombre sous les projecteurs est calculée et générée de façon à lui donner une force elle détruit la végétation en dessous, qui est à la base. Vous êtes littéralement une force de destruction, peu comme un incendie qui rend le terrain plus fertile. L'image de Shiva, vous êtes tout autant destructeur. Mais si vous avez l'impression d'être un dieu pour le moment, loin d'être omnipotent. L'interaction est très réactive, l'influence est limitée. Le monde vous accueille à un certain point d'échanges, mais il continuera à vivre sans vous. Vous n'êtes pas entière de l'écosystème, mais vous n'y jouerez pas le rôle principal. Il est important pour nous de ne pas perdre de l'être humain pour en faire un exemple parmi d'autres. Du point de vue, le monde s'agrandit. Le cauchemar est toujours là, le monstre nous trouve toujours, peu importe où nous sommes. Le monstre lui-même, mais au fait que nous sommes là. Dans la plupart des scénarios de science-fiction, nous sommes la proie d'extraterrestres et de machines ô combien puissantes. Notre imaginaire autocentré, pourtant bien en de la réalité. Nous avons le sentiment qu'il est urgent de nous reconnecter plus dans un monde obnubilé par la pensée unipolaire. Cela renforce le déséquilibre de notre capacité technologique et notre instinct esthétique de survie sont donc devenus en superposition du nôtre, pour rappeler que, même

que le connu, le réel est plus grand encore, et plus

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998. The public sector has also become an important employer of women, with 5.5 million women employed in the public sector in 1998, compared with 4.5 million in 1980.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of women in its workforce. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were women, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

Another reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are part-time or flexible. In 1998, 38% of the public sector workforce were employed on part-time or flexible contracts, compared with 28% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well paid. In 1998, the average salary of a public sector employee was £18,000, compared with £15,000 in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

There are a number of other reasons why the public sector has become an important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are secure. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were employed on permanent contracts, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

Another reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well located. In 1998, 38% of the public sector workforce were employed in London, compared with 28% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

A third reason why the public sector has become an important employer of women is that it has a high proportion of jobs that are well matched to women's skills. In 1998, 88% of the public sector workforce were employed in jobs that required a degree or higher qualification, compared with 78% in 1980. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that the public sector has a high proportion of jobs that are traditionally held by women, such as teaching, nursing, and social work.

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Though the search for inspiration in nature is timeless and have modified its artistic expression by mixing it with tech Wakefield present the diverse immersive reality of their art

generated, interactive ecosystems mix sensorial reminisc of our computational lives so as to form “artificial natures.” between the digital and the living, but rather constitute a m nature’s essence. The immersive interface and its natural i a networked structure of feedback from the world, inspired In this way, they create “ecologies” that incorporate “quasi- limits, conditions and rules. Neither completely programm enough room for organic, evolutive, and self-determined g

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Humans have always looked to nature
for inspiration. As artists, we have done so
in creating a family of “artificial natures”:
interactive art installations surrounding

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complex systems experienced in immersive

mixed reality. The invitation is to become
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feedback networks, but not as its central
subject. Although artificial natures are
computational, we draw our inspiration
from the sense of open-ended continuation
and the aesthetic integration of playful
wonder with the tension of the unfamiliar
recalled from childhood explorations in
nature. By giving life to mixed reality we're
anticipating futures inevitably saturated
in interconnected computational media.
However, we believe computation is not
intrinsically utilitarian, nor in opposition

to nature; we see it instead as a material means to plunge even more deeply into what nature is, and find our place within it.

A common theme binding the various principles we work from is the importance

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whatever we do, and whatever grows, does so from within. We're committed to a

world in which everything you can see and hear is active with continuous ontological functions; there are no parts unrelated to others, no effects without consequences, no supplementary notations, no stops and starts. Life is an infinite game evolving from inside.

Natural
interaction

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immersive display act as an invitation for visitors to also become another part of this changing network of feedback relations and discover its depth of kinds as a first

hand
experience.

(Even
while

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creating the installations, we try to work
from within the environment as much as
we can, making changes while it continues

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Our aesthetic is deeply informed by
the ways in which nature works, including
the many connections, organizations, and
structures that exist beyond and below
human scales of space and time. In this
regard, we draw from complex adaptive

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Haru Ji, Graham Wakefield

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systems
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systems and simulation that follow nature by analogy and mechanism. From our earliest and simplest sketches, we built worlds as systems, grounded in shared resources and processes. Our goal is not to make creatures, but ecologies. (We have been asked, “Could your creatures one day

escape?”, but the creatures cannot exist outside their environment any more than humans can escape Earth without bringing and sustaining enough of the biosphere with them.

It's not about

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escaping, it's about the system.)

Each world begins with

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intensive and dynamic fields: flows, fluids,
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concentrations, waves, illuminations, etc.

All life must find its resources in this
environment, and will leave traces upon
it.

Metabolic
systems
must

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sufficient energy to survive, and every
activity
expends

some
of
this

,
including growth and even metabolism
itself. Creatures may also communicate via
the environment, such as leaving trails of
“pheromones” for others to follow. More

generally, we believe that any new aspect added to the world must fully integrate with multiple other aspects (including humans), affecting them and being affected by them in a continuous interplay.

We

program

the

interfaces

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boundaries of this world, its conditions

and

regularities,

many

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probabilistic

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interaction. But it is not entirely pre

programmed nor random. Between these
limits there is enough space for organisms
to develop themselves as self-determined
individuals, creating their own rules and
limits as they adapt to their changing
world.

Creatures

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characteristics, in forms far simpler than nature's

DNA,

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regulate variations in the behavioral and morphological patterns of each individual.

Sometimes these adaptations are shared within lifetimes like bacterial horizontal gene transfer¹; sometimes adaptations are expressed rapidly at group level like viral

2.

As Henri Bergson pointed out one century ago, the tendency of the non-living is toward similarity, stasis, symmetry, and predictability, such as the assimilating limits and averages of entropy. Subverting these conditions, the tendency of the living is to create new tendencies, new

asymmetries, new senses, new qualities.
A world making itself within a world
unmaking itself. To incorporate a near

living capacity into our works implies
increasing the rate of rare events—events
whose primary discernment is in

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simultaneously diminishing their rarity.

As such, the creativity of life isn't a pre

defined problem amenable to preliminary

optimization. Life is what differs from
itself,
continually
rewriting
itself

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new
regimes.
Fortunately,

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,
and the generation of new rules as code,
is fundamental to computing—it is this
unconventional “second order” capacity

that makes computing possible in the first place. To this end we have employed run-time

code

generation:

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an organism is born (often hundreds of times per minute), we generate a new program for it, based on its uniquely mutated genetic inheritance, and convert this program to native machine code for speed. Although this alone cannot ensure sustained

creativity,

it

does

permit

a

much vaster space of possibilities without compromising the experiential feedback

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What we can build today is still many steps away from what we can conceive, itself no doubt much farther from nature herself. Artificial evolution as described above is one example by which we can replace the aggregation of pre-defined structures with gradual processes by which they may emerge, and thus by which other, non-designed structures may also emerge.

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Certain
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fragments of their genetic heritage via plasmid transfer (conjugation), via virus (transduction) or via contact with dead bacteria (transformation).

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2. Viral quasi-species designate different varia

tions of the same virus (virions) generated by a mutation within the host organism. This is the case with HIV for example, very difficult to treat due to the emergence of resistance following each

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1998 (Department of Health 1999). The number of people employed in the health sector has increased by 1.2 million, from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.4 million in 1998.

There is a growing emphasis on the need to improve the quality of care and services provided by the public sector. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Health Care Act 1999, which sets out a framework for the regulation of health care providers. The Act also sets out a number of objectives for the health care system, including the need to improve the quality of care and services, to ensure that care is safe and effective, and to ensure that the system is efficient and cost-effective.

One of the key challenges facing the health care system is the need to improve the quality of care and services. This is a complex task, as it involves a number of factors, including the quality of the staff, the quality of the facilities, and the quality of the care itself. There are a number of ways in which the quality of care and services can be improved, including the introduction of new technologies, the implementation of new procedures, and the training of staff.

One of the most important ways in which the quality of care and services can be improved is through the implementation of new procedures. This involves the development of new protocols and the implementation of these protocols in a consistent and effective manner. This can be done through a number of ways, including the use of checklists, the implementation of standard operating procedures, and the use of quality assurance systems.

Another important way in which the quality of care and services can be improved is through the training of staff. This involves the development of new training programmes and the implementation of these programmes in a consistent and effective manner. This can be done through a number of ways, including the use of simulation, the use of role-play, and the use of on-the-job training.

Finally, the quality of care and services can be improved through the use of new technologies. This involves the development of new technologies and the implementation of these technologies in a consistent and effective manner. This can be done through a number of ways, including the use of electronic medical records, the use of telemedicine, and the use of new diagnostic equipment.

There are a number of challenges facing the health care system, but there are also a number of opportunities. By focusing on the quality of care and services, the health care system can ensure that it is providing the best possible care to its patients. This will require a commitment to continuous improvement and a focus on the needs of the patient.

The health care system is a complex one, and it is one that is constantly evolving. There are a number of challenges facing the system, but there are also a number of opportunities. By focusing on the quality of care and services, the health care system can ensure that it is providing the best possible care to its patients.

Extending this principle to all aspects of the world promises a more thoroughly autopoietic³ and hylozoic⁴ world, but this is very difficult to achieve, at least in part because it demands a more thorough emancipation from control. For example, with each installation we tune the system to be poised at balancing points between its various forces, toward a r e a d i l y excitable state that is more responsive within the shorter durations one may spend in an exhibition. However, the artificial conditions we must introduce to maintain this poised state may be obstructing deeper

levels of adaptation and autonomy. We are excited to develop new collaborations and projects that may work over much larger spaces and more open-ended durations of mutual engagement, where we can let the world grow, so that we can grow together.

It
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complex network of feedback relations
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display and interaction, and brings the

generative capacity of computation into an experiential level reminiscent of, yet different to, the open-endedness of the natural world. We mistrust our capacity to see natural wholes through the blind spots of abstract representations and linear A, B, C narratives. It is hard to understand the complexity of an ecosystem in all its relations and flows from a series of singular views. Therefore, we have found our works have become more intentionally plural. “Time of Doubles,” for example, realizes the coexistence of multiple “doubles” in mirrored worlds; whereas

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realizes the coexistence of multiple worlds
in the same physical space, as well as
multiple perspectives in the same time: first
person, second person, and impersonal.

We use continuous and indirect modes
of interaction where possible, preferring
polyvalent bidirectionality over symbolic
cause-and-effect. The organisms grow and
adapt to an environment in part shaped
by

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S
currents of the wind, perhaps your virtual
self is eaten by them. Interactions are also
often both destructive and constructive in
nature. In “Archipelago” for instance, your
shadow under the projectors is calculated
and regenerated in order to grant it an
ontological force in the world: it destroys
the vegetation underneath it at the base of
the food web. You are literally a force of
darkness, but also of rebirth. Rather like a
wildfire, after destruction the land bounces
back more fertile than before. As much as
you are a destroyer, like Shiva, you are

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But if you feel you are a god to the virtual world, you are far from omnipotent. The interaction is highly responsive and nuanced but your influence is limited in range. The world welcomes you into itself at a high level of detail, but it will also continue to thrive without you. You may become a significant part of an ecosystem, but not in a singular role, and not as the main subject. For us it is important to displace the centrally-privileged position of the human as just one example of all possible lives. In this view, the world becomes bigger. The archetypal nightmare in which the monster finds me no matter where I hide is not because of the monster, it's because I am still the center of my world.

Likewise,
much
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pandering to a self-importance that is far
below a truly alien intelligence. We feel it
is urgent to emphasize these points in a
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control-oriented thought, and reinforced
by the imbalance of our technological
reach. Our inherent curiosity and aesthetic
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alternate worlds in superposition to us as
a reminder that although the imaginable is
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vention of extrinsic principles. Things, matter and nature have their own lives. This representation of the world signifies that all matter is alive, that each individual is alive. Ed.

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itself permanently and in interaction with its environment, and thus to maintain its organization despite its changing elements. Ed.

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The concept of the living has imposed itself into contemporary thought and art, modifying our vision of the world and our creative processes, yet it must still find tangible applications on the scale of the city. We must thus explore how it actually shapes our understanding of the urban metabolism. Though they are ostensibly concerned with a city's fabric, that which is the focus of environmental challenges, architects have resisted the integration of an evolution of our relation with the living, until they belatedly, and very suddenly, developed an ensemble of "ecological narratives," the context and emergence of which is being studied by Léa Mosconi. The urban solutions set up to face this challenge waver, depending on the chosen narrative, between two paradigms that seem at odds, one very clearly technologically centered, while the other

explores the path of a “return” to nature. How do supporters of a technological approach envision tomorrow’s digital city? MIT’s Joseph Paradiso claims we are heading for an information world that will link wearable data sensors to an overall digital infrastructure. The quantity of data would reforge our experience of space and buildings. But technology’s omnipresence in itself will not suffice, we must find ways of inhabiting these digital envelopes. Dominique Boullier has named these places “habitele”, a concept allowing us to regulate our relationship to data and avoid the menace of sterile smart-cities, as opposed to Carlos Moreno’s “living city” which, freed from the verticality of technology and architecture, would be built upon humans, relationships, and exchanges. Progress is not bound by technology. As such, landscape architects have benefited from the reemergence of an awareness of the living. For Gilles Clément, progress is based on a higher understanding of the complexity of the ecosystems we are a part of. In Catherine Mosbach’s work, landscape and technology are expressed in such a way as to recreate milieus in urban spaces and balance out the city’s very own extremes, requiring the landscaper and the

architect to give up total control and learn to work with porosity and openness to the elements. In the city, the landscape no longer acts as an added beauty or comfort but redefines it by helping infrastructures reach beyond their mono

functionality, thus creating, with its inhabitants, new spaces that must reveal multiple interactions and uses, according to Anita Berrizbeitia. The return of the living and of biodiversity in the city is also that of a wealth of human and citizen interactions, an end to dehumanized planning. Laurent Petit has sparked a collective that explores residents' voices and participative processes. These become tools to understand the milieu and its urban imaginary world, but also to act upon the territory through the activation of a citizen's *savoir-faire* that, according to Jana Revidin, redefines the role and methods of the architect. More than just a form, architecture becomes a progressive amendment process of the milieus, in a long-term vision of iterative experimentation. Ariane Lourie Harrison describes a post-human architecture where buildings are open to all living things, an architecture designed to create anchors for the living and urban relay points for biodiversity.

Tomorrow's architects are building for and with the living, by developing materials that stem from nature, an example of which can be seen in Timothée Boitouzet's reinforced wood—a creation that is both hyper-technological and organic—or by developing engineering solutions inspired by the living and biological principles, as studied by the Wyss Institute headed by Donald Ingber at Harvard. Tangible metabolic processes are thus born, helping to materialize the dreams of historical pioneers in “prospective” architecture such as

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La figure du vivant s'est imposée dans la pensée du monde et nos pratiques créatives, mais elle à l'échelle de la ville. Il nous faut donc explorer l'appréhension des métabolismes urbains. Comme la ville, qui concentre nombre d'enjeux environnementaux, l'évolution de nos rapports au vivant, avant de construire un ensemble de « récits écologiques », dont Léo Corbin l'émergence. Selon la narration adoptée, les sciences et les paradigmes que tout semble opposer, l'un clair et l'autre d'un « retour » de la nature.

Comment les partisans d'une approche technologique envisagent-ils demain ? Pour Joseph Paradiso, du MIT, nous ne pouvons liant les *wearable*, capteurs de données, à une intelligence de *data* y refonderait notre expérience de l'espace. La technologie ne saurait se suffire à elle-même, c'est d'habiter ces enveloppes numériques. Domini Corbin, un concept permettant de réguler notre relation aux *cities* stériles, auxquelles Carlos Moreno oppose

la verticalité de la technologie ou de l'architecture

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Le retour d'une conscience du vivant donne un
sur la ville, car le Progrès ne saurait être unique
Clément sur une plus grande intelligence de la
partie. Articulés de façon à recréer des milieux
pondèrent chez Catherine Mosbach les extrêmes
devant renoncer au contrôle total et savoir ménager
Le paysage n'intervient plus dans la ville comme
redéfinit en profondeur en favorisant le dépassement
créant avec les habitants des espaces qui, selon
interactions et usages multiples. Le retour du vivant
tout autant celui de la richesse des interactions
la planification désincarnée. La parole habitante
collectif initié par Laurent Petit deviennent des

imaginaires urbains, mais aussi d'action sur le t
qui redéfinissent pour Jana Revidin le rôle et le
devient un processus d'amendement progress
une vision d'expérimentation itérative à long te
une architecture qu'Ariane Lourie Harrison qua
offrir des aspérités pour le vivant et des relais u
construit pour le vivant mais également avec lu
de la nature, à l'image du bois augmenté de Tim
et organique, ou encore en développant des sc
principes biologiques, comme l'étudie le Wyss
Des processus métaboliques concrets naissent
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Enjeux
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Architectural Stakes of the Ecological Narrative p.33

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« Viscéralisation » des capteurs

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Au-delà de la *smart city*

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Beyond the Smart City

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Privilégier le vivant sur la forme

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Favoring the Living on Form

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Landscape as an Urban Mediator

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Time, Needs and Experimentation

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L'Architecture « post-humaine »

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L'Architecture pour les vivants

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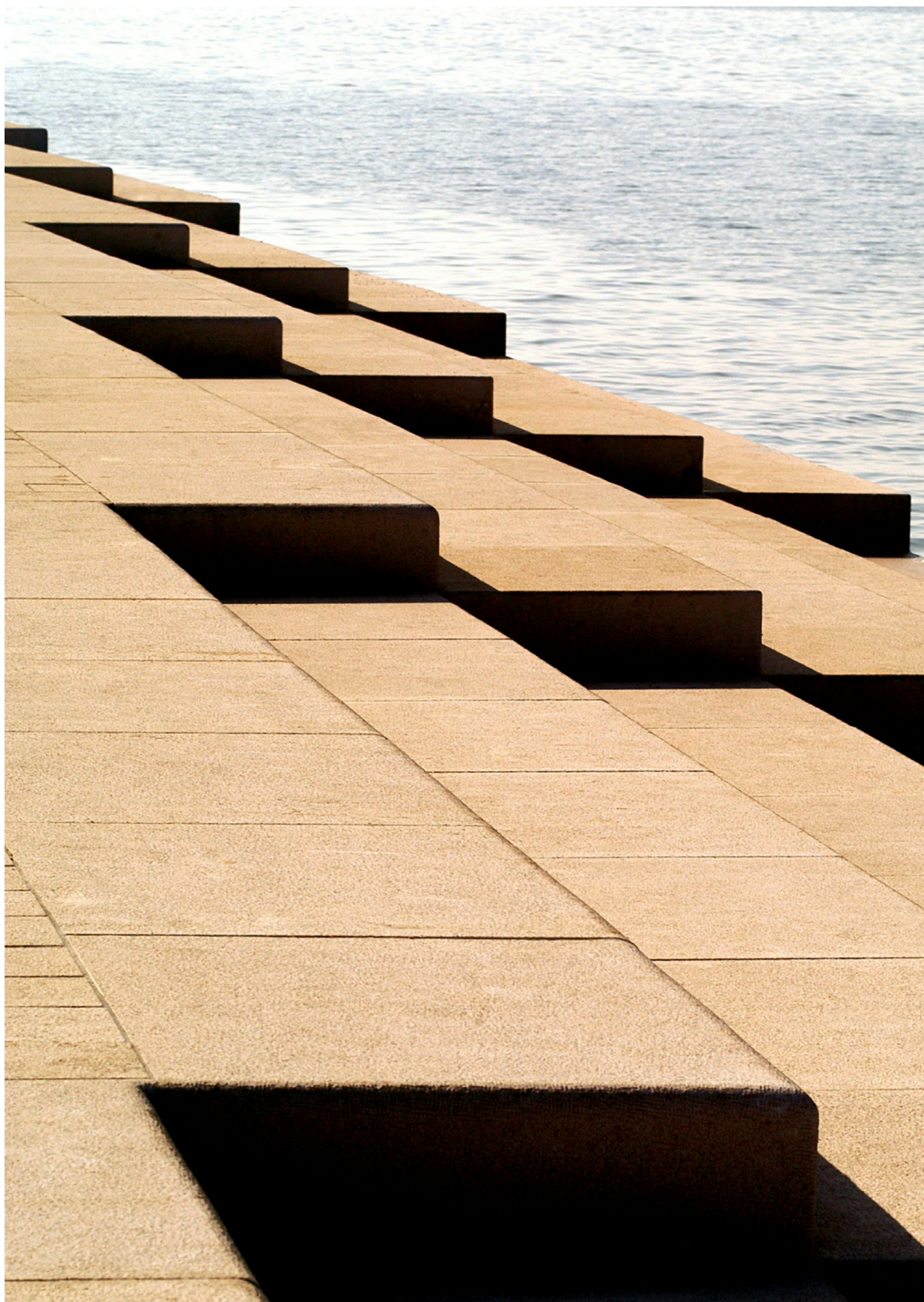
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TEACHING
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*Vous avez étudié la construction du récit
écologique en architecture. Pourriez-vous
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J'emprunte le terme « récit » à Jean

François Lyotard, qui l'identifie en 1979 dans *La Condition postmoderne*. Il y définit le « récit » comme le discours qu'une culture donnée se raconte à elle-même au sujet de ses propres croyances.

Dans cette lignée, j'ai essayé de comprendre la manière dont la prise de conscience écologique dans le milieu architectural des années 1990 pouvait être lue comme l'émergence d'un nouveau

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notamment la contre-culture américaine –
une considération pour l'écologie dès les années 1960 –
organisations non gouvernementales – à l'instar des
hippies ou de « Drop city » – se penchent sur

ou le nomadisme. Le Sommet de la Terre à S
puis le choc pétrolier de 1973 viendront en
questionnements . Il faut néanmoins attend

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Enjeux architecturaux du récit écologique

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quittent finalement les milieux marginaux pour le secteur du bâtiment avec la signature du décret et ses injonctions concernant le secteur énergétique. L'écologie s'institutionnalise ainsi au travers du prisme de la performance et s'ouvre à d'autres champs, dont les architectures, depuis les années 1990.

L'élément déclencheur est probablement l'atmosphère de fin des temps qui a suivi les

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Tchernobyl, mais aussi la fin de l'euphorie danser sur les décombres de la modernité. Le slogan punk « *no futur* » prend vraiment sens à ce moment, la parution d'ouvrages comme *Le Contrat naturel* de Michel Serres, *Nous ne sommes pas seuls* de Bruno Latour ou *Le Nouvel ordre écologique* de Luc Joly, l'écologie environnementale pour en proposer des lectures, le débat. L'opinion publique s'alerte, et c'est à ce moment que Jourda-Perraudin, Lacaton et Vassal, Edouard Baudouin ne citer que les Français – s'emparent de ce discours général de chaos et de préoccupation énergétique. Les constructeurs – poussés par les intellectuels pionnières –, que le récit écologique prend

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De quoi ce «récit» est-il le nom ?

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Je me suis rendu compte que le récit écologique est une manière de lire l'Anthropocène, qu'il n'est pas de proposer une vision plus ample de ce qu'appelaient la crise écologique ou la transition. Dans la mesure où la thèse Anthropocène ne se limite pas sur la seule question énergétique, elle fait passer la crise – surmontable par des outils technologiques – au long de la géologie. Le thème du récit écologique est à coup une autre dimension à cette aune.

Christophe Bonneuil et Jean-Baptiste Fressoz

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lectures antagonistes de l'Anthropocène : une vision qui servirait la géo-ingénierie – confirmant notre pouvoir, puisant encore et toujours des solutions, notamment technique –, opposée à l'idée d'une décroissance remettant en question l'apport des technologies et valorisant des comportements appropriés et engagés. Cette vision propose un mode de pensée plus alternatif, à l'inverse de la question énergétique qui maintient dans une posture très moderne et

les outils pour continuer à vivre comme on l

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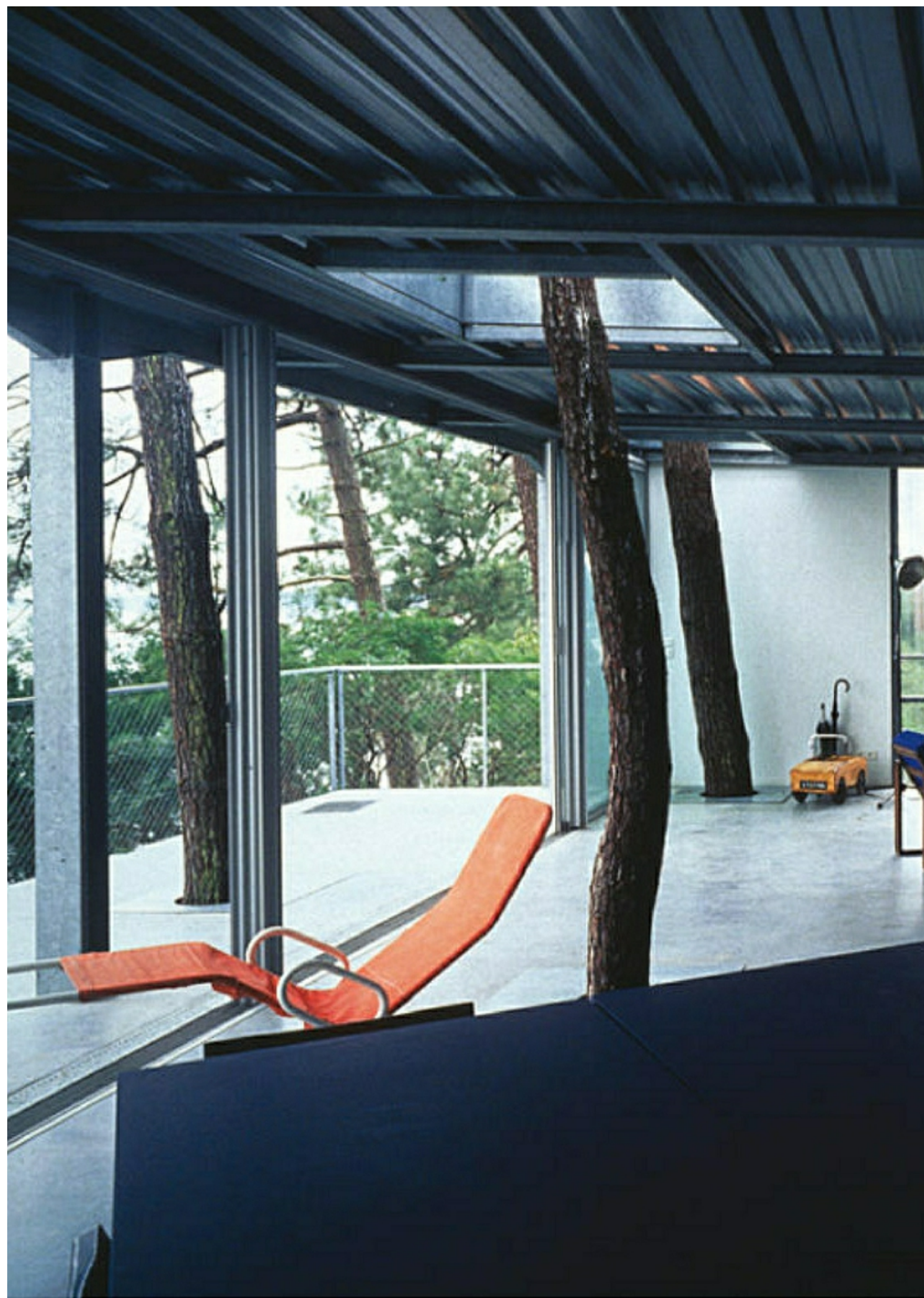
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Enjeux architecturaux du récit écologique

Le récit écologiste, comme l'Anthropocène, est dans une position délicate d'être à la fois victime, pécheur et en quête d'une société plus vertueuse. La rapidité de l'évolution de la planète est devenue indéniable. L'Anthropocène – l'ère de l'homme –, suscite de nombreuses questions. Selon une vision marxiste, Bonnafant propose le concept de Capitalocène, tandis que j'aurais pu proposer le Modernocène, puisque ce sont bien les valeurs du modernisme qui ont mené à la dissociation de notre rapport au vivant.

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*Comment cela s'exprime-t-il dans les projets de loi ?
Les lois sur le vivant s'y révèlent-elles ?*

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Avant l'apparition tonitruante du durable d'inspiration

et trouver les outils pour l’appréhender d’u
À Nantes, le Lieu Unique – transformation d
centre culturel par Patrick Bouchain –, est é
Plutôt que d’envoyer des barils ayant servi
toxiques en Afrique – ils devaient y servir d
pour une école –, Patrick Bouchain a décidé
locale » dans son projet. Il dénonce ainsi l’e
nous confronte à notre propre système de p
poussant à assumer nos responsabilités en

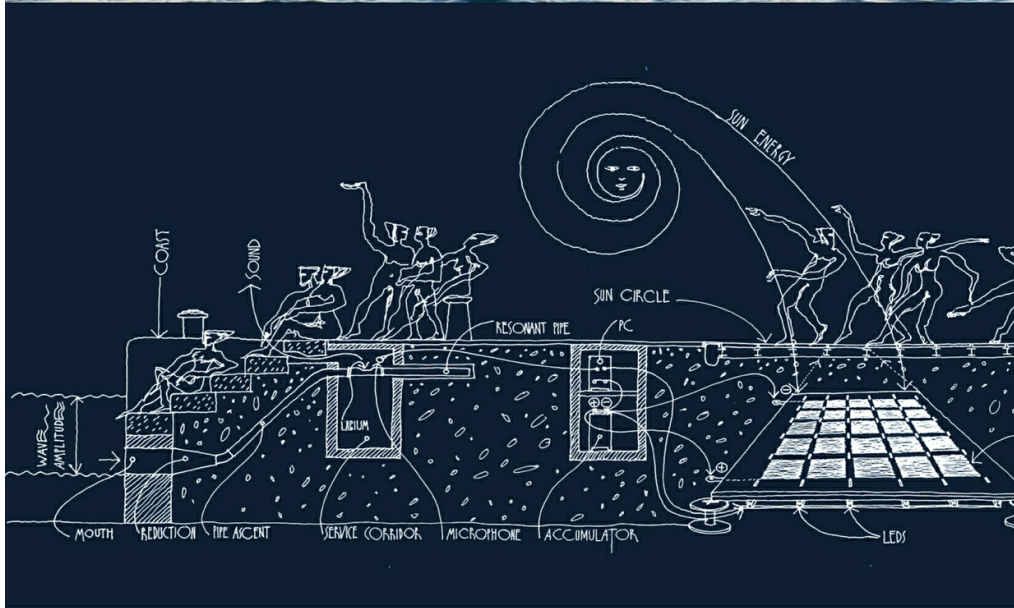
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« Il faut apprendre à vivre avec Frankenstein »

proposant de trouver le cadre et les conditions
avec nos « monstres », non plus culturels ou
Pour les architectes, l'enjeu est de trouver
permettant d'engager des liens entre les ha
« naturel » mais aussi les milieux anthropisés
une certaine forme de mémoire et de respo
multiplier les paramètres, de donner une v
muet, le vent ou les abeilles par exemple, e
considération pour l'existence d'architect

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*La reconnaissance du doute et de l'incertitude
participe-t-elle à un renouveau du caractère
l'architecture pourrait-elle témoigner de ce*

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La chapelle de Bruder Klaus – conçue par P

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tubes qui émet des sons en surface au rythm
éléments naturels et du bâti y façonne une a
se rapproche du sacré et incarne un dialog
public y devient pièce de théâtre et concer
conscience de l'environnement. L'architec
rencontre entre le public, les éléments natr
le vivant comme l'architecture transformée

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La transition énergétique est liée à l'idée d'une temporalité relativement courte. Elle est située d'après-crise. L'Anthropocène renvoie en géologie à une période géologique étalée sur une durée presque égale à la durée de la vie de l'homme et de la femme, et de nombreux scientifiques la feraient remonter à la découverte de nous projeter dans un temps plus long et

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Enjeux architecturaux du récit écologique

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dans un temps plus long à venir, à l'échelle des questions écologiques, de nombreux projets ont une empreinte plus légère au niveau énergétique, ce qui a nécessairement engendré une architecture aux réponses se revendiquant au contraire éphémères, un paradoxe paradoxal. En réalité, l'apparition des préoccupations environnementales a pérennisé cette idée d'éphémère en réintroduisant différents cycles de vie successifs. La question du temps, via l'exposition *Matière grise* du Pavillon de l'Arsenal, semblaient obsolètes se découvrent une 2

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vie, ce qui nous interroge sur le temps des bâtiments. La tour Bois-le-Roi, construite qu'en 1959, lorsque Raymond Lopez l'a des transformations, d'abord dans les années 1960, puis dans les années 1970, a été reconstruite en 1980, ce qui nous interroge sur le temps des bâtiments. La tour Bois-le-Roi, construite qu'en 1959, lorsque Raymond Lopez l'a des transformations, d'abord dans les années 1960, puis dans les années 1970, a été reconstruite en 1980, ce qui nous interroge sur le temps des bâtiments.

Tecteam, puis dans les années 2000 avec le Druot, mais elle conserve certains traits qui la transformation nous interroge autant sur la sur la capacité de « ce qui reste » du projet à

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En 2016-2017, les étudiants de l'ENSA Paris la conception d'un monument de l'Anthrop *Monument* qu'avait monté Bruno Latour en défini au cours du semestre les conditions des concepts qu'elle porte à sa matérialité

rapport qu'elle engage au milieu dans lequ
questions pertinentes et montraient l'intér
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*You have studied the construction of the
ecological narrative in architecture. Could
you briefly outline the context of this*

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The concept of a “narrative” is borrowed here from Jean-François Lyotard, who identified it in 1979 in *The Postmodern Condition*. He defined it as the discourse that a given culture tells it

self regarding its own beliefs. In line with this approach, I have tried to establish how the de

velopment of environmental awareness in the architecture community in the 1990s could be understood as the emergence of a new narrative

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Certain fringe communities, especially those of the American counterculture, hinted at a concern for ecology in the 1960s; several non-govern

mental organizations, following the lead of hip

pie communes and Drop City, then addressed

the issues of re-use, energy, and nomadic living

The Stockholm Earth Summit in 1972 and the 1973 oil crisis further fueled these concerns. It

was not until the late 1980s, however, that these issues began receiving a lot of media coverage, becoming institutionalized, and gaining legi

timacy. The creation of the IPPC—followed by

the inception of the European Environment and Health Committee and the Rio Earth Summit

led to an unprecedented level of media coverage.

These issues were finally taken up beyond fringe communities and the construction industry

started working on them following the signature

of the Kyoto Protocol and its binding resolutions

regarding the energy sector. Ecology thus became institutionalized through the energy prism before opening up to other fields that architects

have endorsed since the 1990s.

This was probably triggered by the eschatological

climate, the end-of-the-world atmosphere

that followed the Bhopal and Chernobyl

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disasters, but also the end of the euphoria of

post-modernism, which extolled the idea of dancing on the ruins of modernity, yet to dance nevertheless. The “No Future” punk calling card really started taking on its full meaning at the end of the 1980s. Around the same time books addressing the environmental question such as Félix Guattari’s *Three Ecologies*, Mi

chel Serres’ *Natural Contract*, Bruno Latour’s *We Never Have Been Modern*, and Luc Ferry’s *New Ecological Order* were published; they offered very different readings and therefore promp

ted a debate. Public opinion was alerted and certain pioneering architects such as Jourda and Perraudin, Lacaton and Vassal, Édouard François or Philippe Rahm—to mention only the French ones—took up this issue. It is against this background of chaos and growing concern about energy-related issues among builders

spurred on by public intellectuals and a number of pioneers—that the ecological narrative took shape in the architecture community.

While the evolution of our relationships with the living and the practices of philosophy and contemporary art, it has taken architecture. The researcher and teacher in the field of architecture, the French architectural scene's growing ecological awareness. She has enlightened the construction of a narrative, the "ecological" complete than simple notions of energy transition or environmental

tical responses to these issues, but of modifying our understanding of the living, and of finding ways of being benevolent that allow our surroundings, whether natural or anthropized.

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Architectural Stakes of the Ecological Narrative

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What does this “narrative” mean?

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of reading the Anthropocene and that it allowed

me to offer a broader vision of what some people were calling the ecological crisis or the energy transition. Since the Anthropocene thesis is not focused only on energy-related issues, it causes a shift from a period of crisis, which could be overcome thanks to the use of technical tools, to the long-term time frame of geology. As a result the theme of the ecological narrative suddenly takes on another dimension.

Christophe Bonneuil and Jean-Baptiste Fressoz

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distinguish between two antagonistic readings of the Anthropocene. On the one hand, it can serve the interests of geo-engineering by asserting our might and our power and repeatedly drawing solutions from Progress, with a capital “P,” and in particular from technological achievements. In contrast is the idea of a degrowth society that calls into question the aporia of modernity and emphasizes behaviors that are adapted to the disruptions at play. This other perspective offers a somewhat “offbeat” approach to production models and lifestyles, whereas the energy angle leaves us in a modernist position, offering to find

tools to allow us to continue living in the same
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The ecological narrative, as does the Anthro
pocene, places humankind in the delicate posi
tion of being both a victim, a sinner, and a pro
tagonist on a quest for a more virtuous society.
Humankind's responsibility for the changes af
fecting the planet has become undeniable. Cal

ling this period the Anthropocene—the human epoch—raises many questions however. Within a Marxist framework, Bonneuil and Fressoz pro

pose the concept of a Capitalocene, while I’d be inclined to talk about a Modernocene given that the values of modernity have indeed brought about the dissociation of our relationship to the living world, to the milieu, and to nature.

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How is this expressed in architectural projects? Do new relations to the living world reveal themselves through these means?

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Before the thunderous emergence of sustainabi

lity in architecture in the mid-2000s, there had already been a number of manifest examples of projects bearing a strong concern for the envi

ronment. In 1998, Lacaton and Vassal designed a house in Cap Ferret that takes the issue of the integration in the natural environment to a whole new level, in this case in the particular context of a coastal dune. The stilts that secure it allow for the sand to move freely below the house, allowing the landscape to retain its ecological dynamics. The presence of the dwelling does not harm the pine forest either, given that the architecture is developed around it and that no tree was cut down for the construction. Tree trunks pass through the walls, emerge from the floors of the living areas, and become elements of daily life which the residents bond with. It is obvious that living in such a place invites us to consider the “objects” that make up the envi

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by Lacaton and Vassal, with Fré

dérique Druot, it is more about
the question of the “milieu,”⁶
and more specifically that of a
site of “unremarkable” heritage.
This project considers “what
already exists”—in this case,
not the dune of Cap Ferret but a
high-rise building from the late
1950s. Basing one’s approach on
the extant structure and having
certain elements of the former
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new envelope to retain some of the site's past. The building is transformed more than it is re

placed. The Tour Bois-le-Prêtre project does not refer directly to the living world but having to learn to live with a building that is burdened with a somewhat value-laden imagery is a way of taking part in an Anthropocene narrative. The idea is to learn to consider one's environment be

nevolently, whatever it may be, and to find the appropriate tools to get to grips with it in a more

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Nantes' Lieu Unique, a former
biscuit factory transformed into
a cultural center by Patrick Bou

chain, also provides a good exa

mple. Rather than sending some
drums that had been used to
store toxic substances to Africa,
where they were supposed to
serve as building materials for
a school, Patrick Bouchain de

cided to use this "local resource"
in his project. He thus makes a

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stand against shipping waste to Africa and make us confront our own system of production, com

pelling us to accept our environmental responsi

bilities. In Bruno Latour's words, "We must learn to live with Frankenstein": we must identify the framework and the conditions that would enable us to live with our "monsters"; these are not cultu

ral or natural anymore, but hybrids.

For architects, the challenge is to find modali

ties of benevolence to connect people with their *milieu*—the "natural" milieu but also the an

thropized and degraded milieus—so as to bear a certain form of responsibility and remem

brance. The idea is also to increase the number of parameters that are taken into account, to give a voice to the typically voiceless, the wind or the bees for instance, by going to the point of

showing some consideration for the existence of
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Does acknowledging doubt and uncertainty regarding the unpredictability of the elements participate in renewing the sacredness of the environment?

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The Bruder Klaus Field Chapel designed by

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Peter Zumthor is quite representative of the way architects can engage in a form of sacredness in an architecture of the Anthropocene. Zum

thor raised a wooden frame, poured concrete over it and then burned it, thus questioning and disturbing the public both by shaping a volume with a material that leaves some visible traces and that we can feel yet that is also absent. The

question of the milieu, of matter, and its disap

pearance thus arises, involving a certain form of sacredness. It seems to me that the projects that include this dimension are more successful in overcoming the strictly down-to-earth approach to environmental issues that predominates. In the redevelopment of the port of Zadar for instance, Nikola Bašić created a “Sea Organ,” which is a musical device made of pipes built under rows of steps on the quayside and that uses the force of the waves to produce harmonious sounds. The hybridization of natural elements and construc

ted elements creates a very special atmosphere that verges on sacredness and that embo

dies a dialogue between nature and culture. The public space thus becomes a drama and a concert, at the same time as it raises public awareness of the e

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reflect on these modalities of
the encounter between the pu

blic, the natural elements, and
what is extant, in the broadest
sense, both from the living world and transfor

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*Do you think these architectures of the
Anthropocene are changing our relation to*

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The energy transition paradigm is linked to the concept of a crisis, and therefore, by definition, to a relatively short time frame. It can be overco

me and suggests that something will eventually emerge after the crisis is over. The Anthropoce

ne denotes a geological epoch however, occurring over a duration that is beyond the scale of human life, and one that is hotly debated given that some people believe it to date back to the discovery of the Americas. In addition to projecting us back much further, it also projects us forward much further, truly on the geological scale. With the emergence of ecological issues, many projects have started to tout their smaller energy footprint. Sustainability has therefore not necessarily generated a more lasting form of architecture, as many responses are, on the contrary, asserting forms of architecture that are, counterintuitively, transient. In reality, the onset of concerns related to recycling has perpetuated this idea of transience by reintroducing materials in various successive life cycles. The issue of re-use has emerged notably via the Pavillon

de l'Arsenal's *Matière grise* (*Grey Matter*) exhi

bition. Objects we deemed obsolete are now being offered a second lease on life, and pe

rhaps even a third or fourth one, which raises the question of the temporality of buildings. Is the Tour Bois-le-Prêtre exactly the same as in 1959, when Raymond Lopez designed it? *De facto*, it has undergone a number of changes, first those carried out in the 1990s by the architectural en

gineering firm Tecteam, then in the 2000s with the architects Lacaton, Vassal, and Druot; it ne

vertheless retains certain characteristic fea

tures. The transformation process raises ques

tions both on the temporality of architecture and on the capacity of “what remains” from a project to carry over its key features.

In 2016–17, the students of ENSA Paris-Mala

quais worked under my guidance on the design of an Anthropocene monument, following on the “Anthropocène Monument” exhibition that Bru

no Latour organized at Les Abattoirs in Toulouse. Over the course of the semester, they defined the conditions of an architecture for the Anthro

pocene, from the concepts it builds on to its ma

teriality, its temporality, and its relationship to its surrounding milieu. The projects raised many relevant issues and highlighted the younger generation’s interest for this subject. This is an

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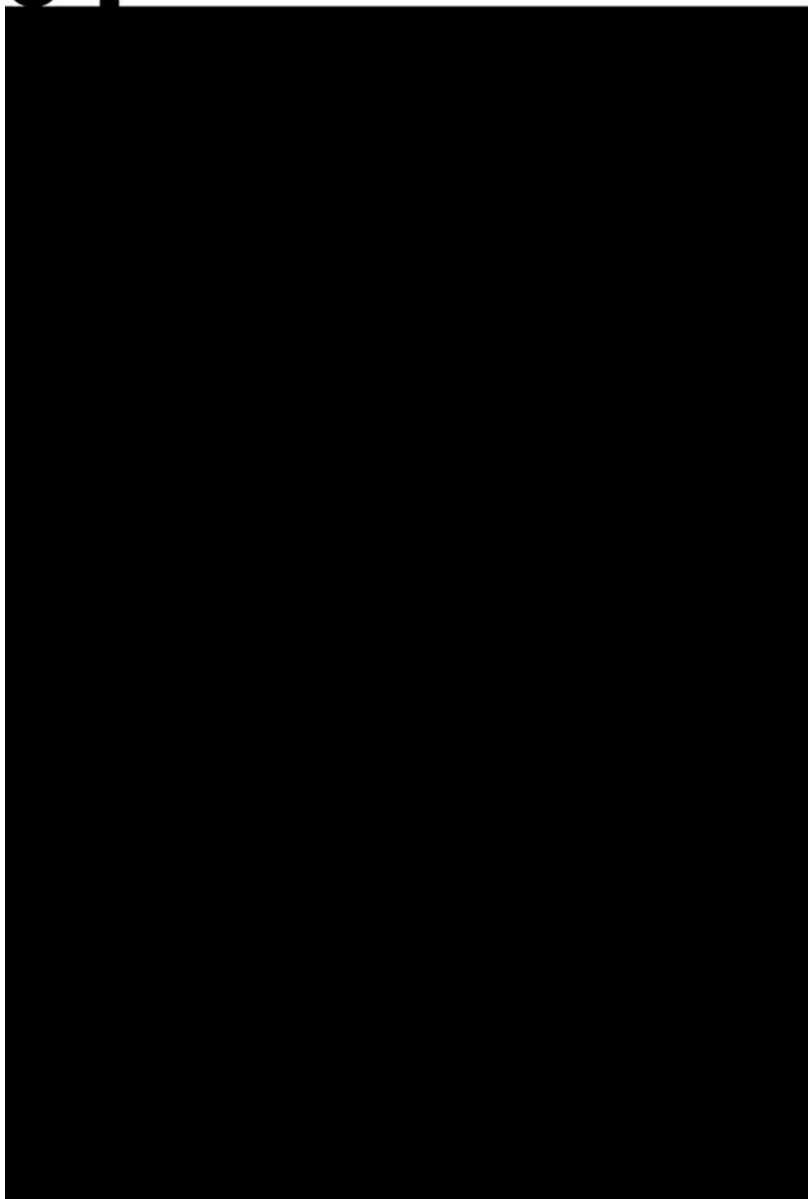


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*Qu'est-ce que le Responsive
Environments Group, et à quels
sujets vous intéressez-vous ?*

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MIT Media Lab, nous

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dans le fait de savoir
comment les individus sont

transformés par ces deux
domaines. Je travaille sur
l'internet des objets depuis
l'époque où nous parlions d'« informatique »
bien quinze à vingt ans de cela. Nous nous penchons
sur ce qui arrive aux individus lorsque nous traitons
informations issues de capteurs d'une manière
viscérale – c'est-à-dire autrement qu'avec un écran
d'affichage projetant du texte ou des informations.
est-ce que cela transforme les individus ? C'est
l'individu, où s'arrête le « je » ?

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Nous en percevons déjà les débuts. Les individus sont socialement en interaction *via* les médias numériques, connectés aux informations de manière très différente. C'est parfois que cela se rapproche vraiment de nos idées, sous la forme d'un accessoire vestimentaire électronique « connecté » – *wearable*, en anglais –, nous en voyons la dimension. Qu'en sera-t-il lorsque cela deviendra la norme, qui est l'extrême de ce que nous sommes à présent ? Comment prévoir en termes d'interface utilisateur ? Comment cela va-t-il commencer l'humain, et inversement ? Comment les individus seront-ils connectés et comment serons-nous « augmentés » ? Ce sont là des questions fascinantes.

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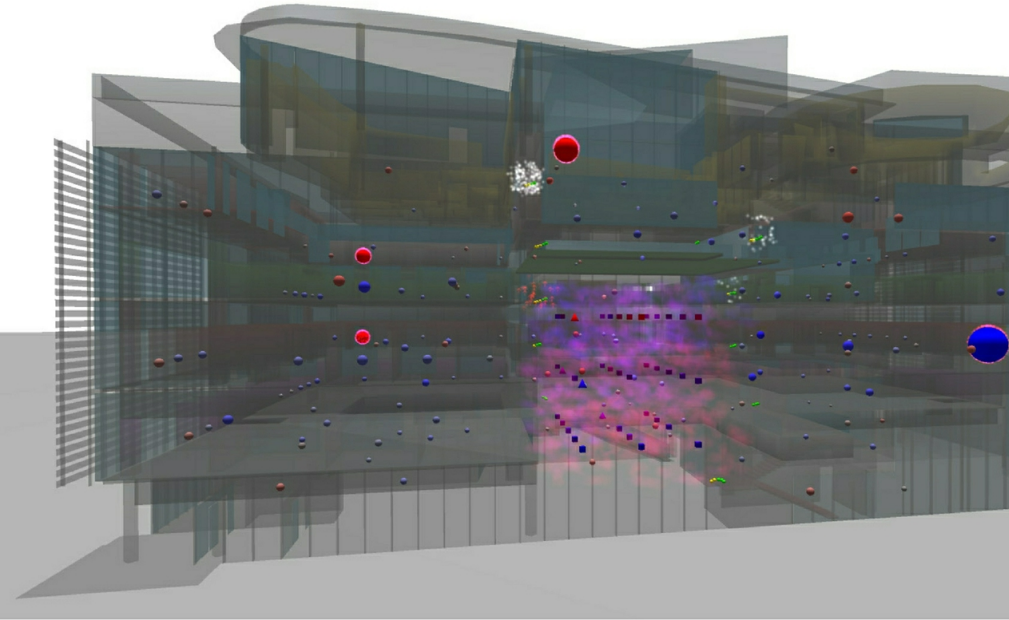
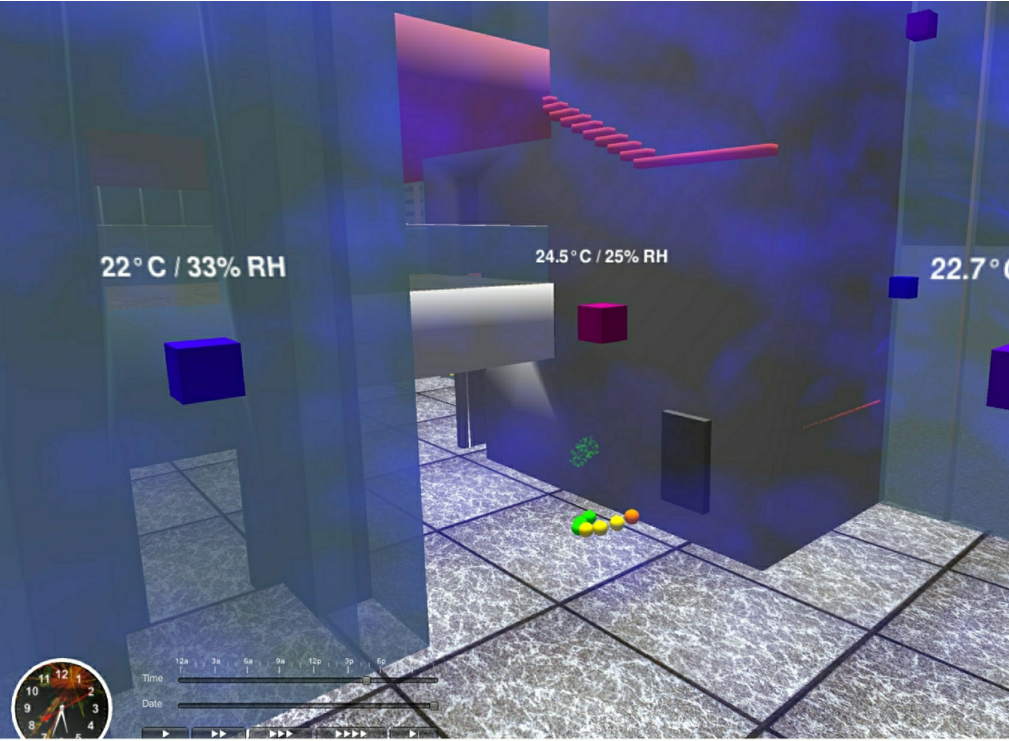
Sur quels sujets spécifiques travaillez-vous, et comment cela concerne le bâti ?

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Nous réalisons des projets qui sont clairement destinés à d'impacter le bâti, inspirés par les changements induits par la technologie. Au-delà, nous sommes extrêmement intéressés par la façon dont les technologies agissent de différentes manières dans les bâtiments. Nous nous penchons en quelque sorte sur les impacts à la fois. Nous avons réalisé il y a six ou sept ans que nous contrôlions le chauffage avec des boîtiers individuels mis au point par Mark Feldmeier.

élève. Nous avons fabriqué un *wearable* portable à la manière d'une *smartwatch*. Le dispositif mesure votre activité en consommant très peu d'énergie. Il mesurait également la température et l'humidité toutes les minutes et déterminait votre localisation par radio. L'un des capteurs à venir, qui viendra certainement changer notre expérience d'un espace, consiste en la géolocalisation dans un bâtiment. Nous serons capables de situer les individus au centimètre près, ce qui ouvre des perspectives phénoménales en termes de confort utilisateur. Dans notre projet, nous étions à même de mesurer votre condition du moment parce que nous avons des capteurs paramètres à même le corps. Nous savions comment contrôler le climat intérieur sur la base de la température et en fonction de votre confort personnel. Il ne s'agit plus de contrôler la température avec un simple thermostat, mais de déterminer précisément votre niveau de confort. Je pense que c'est en gros ce à quoi ressemblera l'interface du futur. Nous n'aurons plus à dire aux systèmes techniques du bâtiment ce que nous voulons.

T R E A M [a r c h i t e c t u r e]



Images de DoppelLab, analogue virtuel d'un bâtiment affichant c
Réalisées par Gershon Dublon.

Images of DoppelLab, virtual analog to a building showing animations.

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souhaitons, ils détermineront tout seuls nos
Nous devons certes indiquer une première
préférences, mais ces systèmes seront en mesure
d'extrapoler sur cette base. Cela remonte à un
précurseur de Michael Mozer, dans les années 80
quand il faisait contrôler sa maison par un réseau
de neurones artificiels, les commutateurs n'étaient
foncièrement plus qu'à des fins de renforcer
l'apprentissage. Nous pouvons maintenant faire
cela à un tout autre niveau.

Avant ce projet de contrôle climatique intelligent,
beaucoup travaillé sur les interfaces utilisant des
capteurs en « porté connecté », sans nous soucier
récemment, nous nous sommes intéressés à ce que
nous interpelle parce que nous contrôlons un
ensemble de lumières ou d'huisseries dans un bâtiment.
même rééquiper un bâtiment avec des lumières intelligentes.
Mais comment fait-on interface avec cela ? Nous sommes
actuellement dans une sorte de Far West. Nous avons
projets qui permettent de caractériser la performance
modulant chacun d'entre eux à l'aide d'un contrôleur
déterminer l'apport de chaque éclairage à

simple. Sur le contrôleur, il me suffit de com
je le souhaite et il sera rendu de manière op
lumière nécessaire à partir des luminaires
s'incarner dans un *wearable* au poignet, ou
serviront de système de contrôle d'éclaira

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Lors de nos essais, les systèmes de contrôle
intérieur intelligents ont eu un effet significatif sur la
consommation énergétique, au-delà de l'optimisation des
niveaux de confort. Nos contrôleurs de luminosité sont
sensibles au contexte : en sachant plus ou moins ce que
suis en train de faire à tout moment, ils ajustent

optimale le niveau de luminosité. Fondame
projetons un éclairage complexe sur des a
sont optimisés pour les êtres humains. Au li
à l'aide de curseurs de défilement ou de pr
système peut automatiquement s'ajuster e
rapidement vers le niveau d'éclairage vou

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mes étudiantes porte des lunettes Google C
s'éclaire automatiquement selon ce qu'elle
change si elle se déplace ou si elle est dans
sociale plutôt que de travail. Et bien sûr, no
optimiser la consommation énergétique en

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Il ne s'agit plus seulement d'éclairage. Nous travaillons aussi sur la projection, car nous pourrions, comme ça, assez proche, avoir des surfaces couvrant de mur entiers avec de l'imagerie vidéo dynamique. Nous disposons actuellement des grands écrans, bien sûr, mais nous aurons à terme des papillons intelligents. Comment les contrôler pour avoir une bonne atmosphère à la pièce ? Nous les voyons aussi aux individus parce que nous pouvons aussi définir des paramètres liés à l'affect : sommes-nous détendu, relaxé, en mouvement ? Quel est notre état émotionnel ? commençons à être en mesure d'estimer tout ça, nous faisons en sorte que la pièce réagisse selon

La façon précise dont nous réagissons varie d'un individu à l'autre mais aussi dans le temps ; ce système doit donc être doté d'une capacité d'apprentissage. Nous avons découvert qu'il pouvait aussi apprendre à partir de séquences d'images et d'éclairage pour passer d'un état d'esprit plus approprié à ce qu'il est en train de faire.

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Étant donné toutes ces technologies, quelle sera la vie quotidienne d'ici dix ans ?

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S E P H P A R A D I S O

Je pense que nous en reviendrons à ce que
dès le début des années 1990, quand l'inform
est apparue pour la première fois dans des
Xerox PARC à Palo Alto, avec des chercheurs
et les tous précurseurs en la matière. Ils por
l'infrastructure informatique se généralise
principe socialiste, que nous partagerions
cette époque, il n'y avait pas de téléphones
étaient des choses précieuses, généralement
donné. Je pense que nous allons vers une é
l'information sera une plaque tournante pa
du *wearable* à l'infrastructure. L'informatio
différentes manières : elle nous sera projet
yeux et les oreilles ou sera issue d'écrans e
monde, des flux montants de données issus

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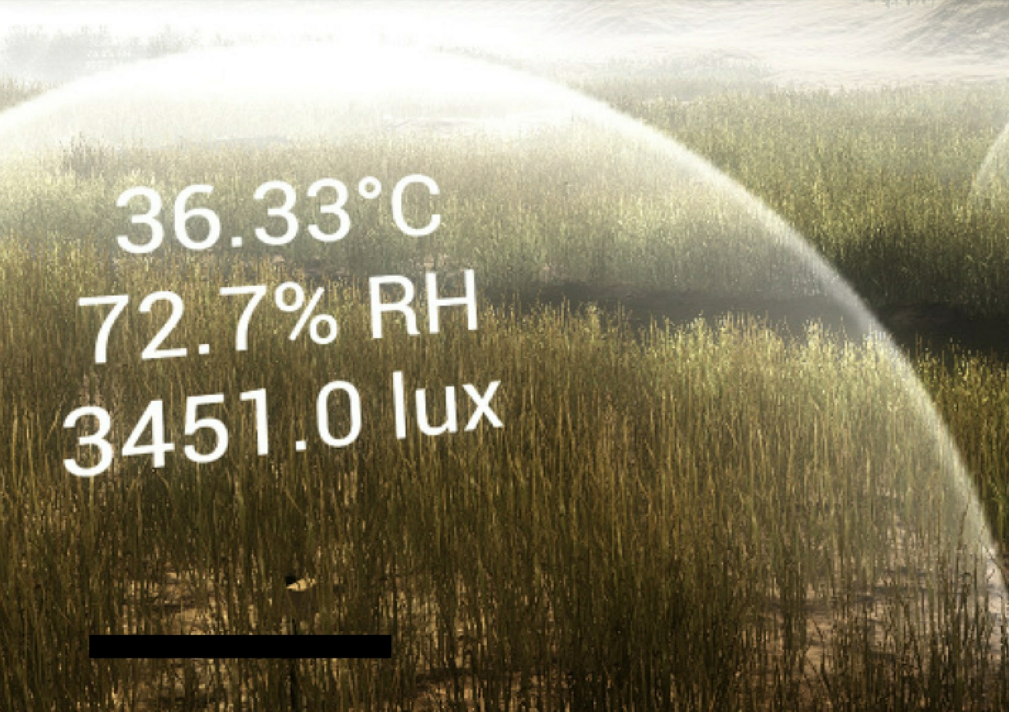
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55% RH
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36.33°C
72.7% RH
3451.0 lux

peu partout et des flux descendants d'information viendront nous guider dans ce que nous faisons les choses « numériques » à proximité. Ce n'est pas sorti d'un téléphone : je pense qu'il y aura ce type, où il faudra exécuter une application qui détournent notre attention. Le monde numérique, et, dans le cadre d'une informatique ubiquitaire, nous ajouteront des capacités en connexion permanente.

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Il s'agira simplement de nous-mêmes, cent
nous faisons : le numérique se manifestera
manière autour de nous, et nous vivrons en
infrastructure mutualisée. D'une certaine r
premiers chercheurs en informatique ubiqu
réalité. Et oui, l'apprentissage automatique
progrès : nous n'en percevons actuellement
Le contexte a toujours été quelque chose de
que le monde réel est saturé de bruit. Prend
fiable sur ce que nous devons faire est donc

choses se sont cependant améliorées, car nous avons de nouvelles informations : il y a tout simplement plus de données. Et nous arrivons de mieux en mieux à développer des algorithmes, à utiliser l'apprentissage automatique, *learning*, par des approches connexes et des modèles qui sont optimisés pour ce genre de chose. Nous allons continuer de contribuer de manière beaucoup plus productive et nous continuerons pas longtemps à toucher des

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Comment cela impactera-t-il la façon dont nous travaillons ?

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C'est une excellente question. Je ne suis pas soupçonne que la dichotomie publique/privée va de changer. Prenez un bureau moderne par exemple, grande partie ouvert, avec des personnes dans des environnements ouverts. Je pense que les gens vont naturellement pouvoir travailler également dans des environnements privés. Nous avons une tension entre ces deux choses, mais ça dépend de ce que fait l'équipe et de la dynamique. Je pense qu'il y aura différentes façons de structurer l'environnement public – les dispositifs de travail, par exemple. Il y aura aussi une révolution dans la façon dont nous connecterons aux autres dans des environnements publics et privés : d'autres personnes pourront être présentes de beaucoup de manières différentes, par exemple par vidéoconférence. Je suspecte qu'à terme,

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changera la nature de l'espace perçu : il y a des transferts de tous types d'informations, des transferts de tous types d'informations personnelles qu'esthétiques, en lien avec l'espace, complètement dynamique : tout sera mis en œuvre. Imaginez un bâtiment au sein duquel vous avez un ordinateur *wearable*. À quoi cela ressemble-t-il ? C'est une idée intrigante. Certaines personnes ont exploré cette question au travers de la science-fiction et de la *fantasy*, mais nous n'en sommes désormais plus. Nous bidouillons actuellement un HoloLens de Microsoft, tout un paysage extérieur qui se peut se matérialiser sur une simple table. Quand on le porte, on est immergé dans un splendide paysage où l'on peut circuler et voir des informations de capteurs se manifester vers eux et interagir avec. Cela a longtemps été de l'imaginaire, mais nous sommes désormais en train de le construire. Les rôles du virtuel et du réel vont changer. Ces constructions seront mobiles, et nous pourrions être dans une bulle virtuelle avec nous lorsque nous nous déplaçons. La définition future de l'individu est tout aussi importante qu'il en soit, cela affectera probablement le

mais aussi les espaces sociaux. Je ne sais pas
comment se passera le déploiement, mais
créatifs y prendront part ; ils pourront aller
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*Pouvez-vous nous en dire plus sur votre travail
la nature et le vivant ?*

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L'un de nos projets concerne un paysage que
appelons « Tidmarsh ». C'est une ancienne
utilisée pour la culture de canneberges. Ce

d'exploitation a migré vers le nord du fait de
économiques, du changement climatique et
changements affectant les plantes elles-mêmes.
grande partie des 240 hectares de Tidmars
été rendue à la nature. Plutôt que d'y construire
centre commercial ou un lotissement, les paysans
souhaitent restaurer l'état originel de cette zone
humide. Le site a donc été rasé, changé, et nous
été intrigués par l'idée de saisir la globalité de ce
processus. Nous avons donc construit des câbles
fil de faible puissance pour mesurer des paramètres
de la zone humide durant sa restauration. Nous
avons disséminés de façon à obtenir des in-

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à granularité fine que nous rendons maintenant
monde virtuel. À l'image du bâtiment du Do
peut maintenant visiter virtuellement ce pa
travers, consulter les informations issues d
animations. Nous avons disposé trente mic
du paysage, ce qui fait que lorsque l'on bou
monde naturel. Les capteurs émettent auss
Nous avons trois ou quatre compositions di
guidées en temps réel par les données des
principe, nous pourrions également faire c
Cela se transforme donc en une forme artis
commence à peine à gagner en maturité.

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Vous pensez à une forme de ville virtuelle ?

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Au lieu de qualifier ce process de visualisation de virtualité des capteurs, nous parlons de Tout est de l'ordre du précognitif, et donc d'un cadre informatique dans lequel tout type des applications, ce qui est essentiel pour l'exécuter avec HoloLens, Rift ou Vive. Nous d'une montée en puissance de nos capacités par la bande-son : quand vous regarderez quelque chose que vous y portez votre attention et enverrez les capteurs à proximité généreront

qui y sera mêlée ; nous suivrons ainsi les mo
localisation et une certaine idée de votre po
aussi naturelle que possible, nous verrons
d'élargissement de la perception – ce que n
« prothèse sensorielle ».

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*Dans ce type d'environnement, les limites du
où il prend fin – deviennent très vagues...*

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Cela deviendra à terme une question de pr
monde de l'information cherche à établir u
monde réel de différentes manières, et nou
cette frontière. Mais nous ne passerons pas
absolue ; la majeure partie de ce qui se fait e
virtuelle n'est d'ailleurs que de la réalité vi
parler, où l'on est présent dans un espace v
Ce que nous faisons, c'est mettre le monde
de l'environnement virtuel, et ce en temps
plutôt de réalité « resynthétisée », construit
appelons *cross-reality* – il s'agit d'une couc
qui resynthétise la réalité perçue à travers.

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Des gens grandiront dans ce monde-là. Nous n'aurons plus besoin de faire de requêtes déterminées par le contexte et par ce que le monde *cloud*, ou le monde virtuel pense important. Nous pourrions augmenter les humains au moyen de nouvelles ressources. Certaines seront de l'ordre du viscéral ou sensoriel. Et à terme, nous transformerons nous-mêmes et tout ce qui nous entoure. C'est ce que nous faisons avec les ciseaux à ADN – qui sait ce que nous ferons. D'autres personnes travaillent sur ces aspects.

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*Un autre dilemme concernant la technologie jusqu'auquel nous pouvons aller en termes de
Quelle est votre vision à ce sujet ?*

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Nous avons besoin de tous les moyens dont nous devons être préparés à agir. Au vu de climatiques, nous arriverons bientôt au stade effets notables du réchauffement. Il est en retard, en vaporisant des sulfates ou équivalents, pourrions atténuer certains des symptômes d'inconvénients majeurs. Mais nous ne con

le climat pour dire avec certitude ce qui se passera, nous devrions mettre au point de meilleurs modèles, tester de ces idées, voir ce qu'il est possible de faire de réaliste et faisable. Le danger est de considérer cette technologie comme une panacée et se contenter de dire : « Ok, il suffit de continuer à brûler des combustibles fossiles pour éviter cela, ce serait l'issue la plus défavorable ». L'utilisation des hydrocarbures, puis éventuellement un autre type de combustibles pour contrôler les températures dans un stade ultérieur, si nous trouvons un moyen de réduire le dioxyde de carbone dans l'air, arriver à réguler le climat en régulant vraiment le climat en tant que tel, ce n'est pas la façon de voir maîtriser le climat passé un certain stade. On connaît également des cycles naturels. Le climat a connu un grand nombre de phases, et si les êtres humains ont mis longtemps pour en arriver à un stade où cela est possible, il est probablement être en mesure d'y faire face. Nous sommes à un point où nous ne nous préoccupons plus de nous transcendant en quelque chose d'autre. Nous ne sommes pas loin de voir ce qu'il peut y avoir de véritablement des temps intéressants parce qu'il y a de profondes mutations, et nous nous apprêtons à les affronter.

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Urban responses to environmental issues are split between the technological solutions of the smart city, based on sensors. The Environmental Systems Group at MIT, studies the interactions between portable electronic sensors known as wearables allow access to data and profoundly impacts the built environment. Electronic sensors enable the optimization of comfort and energy consumption. He studies the real world, articulating wearables in real time with the general public. This with us will even cause the notion itself of the individual to be challenged, destined to change in his opinion, accompanying a “visceral” power of our sensorial capacities.

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*What is the Responsive Environments Group
and what topics are you looking at?*

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At the Responsive Environments Group of the MIT Media Lab we look at how people connect to the nervous system of sensors that covers the planet. I think one of the real challenges for anybody associated with human interaction and computer science is really figuring out how people are transformed by this. The internet of things is something I've been working on for at least 15–20 years, ever since we referred to “ubiquitous computing.” Now we're looking at

what happens to people after we connect to sen

sor information, in a precognitive and visceral way, not as a heads-up display with text or some simple information. How does that transform the individual? What's the boundary of the indivi

dual, where do "I" stop?

We already see the beginnings of it now. People are all socially connected through electronic media, and they're connected to information very intimately, but once that becomes up close and personal as part of a wearable, it reaches another level entirely. And what about when it eventually becomes implantable, which is as far as we can see right now in terms of user interface? Where does the cloud stop and the human begin, or the human stop and the cloud begin? How are you going to be connec

ted to this, and how are you going to be aug

mented by it? These are fascinating questions.

H I L I P P E C H I A M B A R E T T A

What specific research are you working on, especially with regards to the built

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We're doing projects that are definitely impacting the built environment and that are inspired by the changes in the built environment that technology provides. Beyond that, we're also really interested in how people act in natural places in different ways. We did a project six or seven years ago controlling heating with comfort estimation, done by my then-student Mark Feldmeier. We built a wrist-worn wearable much like a smartwatch. It would monitor activity using very little power, so you could wear it for years

before you had to change the battery. It also measured tempe

rature and humidity every mi

nute, and obtained location from the radio. Indoor location will be one of the next big sensors, so to speak, that's going to roll out and transform our in-building experience. You'll know within a few centimeters where people are indoors. That's going to open up so much in terms of user inte

raction. In our project, we knew something about your local state because we were measuring these parameters right on the body. So, we essentially learned how to control heating, venti

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lation, and air conditioning (HVAC) based on the sensors as labeled by your comfort. You're not controlling the HVAC like on a thermostat, you're saying if you're comfortable or not.

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going to be. We're not going to tell building sys

tems directly what we want; they're going to infer our needs. At some point, we're going to label whether we like something or not and they're going to infer from that, and be able to bootstrap. This goes back to the pioneering work of Mi

chael Mozer in the 1980s, when he had his house

controlled by a neural net and switches were just doing reinforcement, essentially. We can take that to a whole other level now.

Before the smart HVAC project, we did a lot of user interface, wireless sensing, and wearable sensing, not concerned directly with the built environment. More recently, we've been focu

sing on lighting: for us lighting is intriguing because we now have control over any small group of lights or any fixture in a modern buil

ding. You can even retrofit a building with Blue

tooth-enabled fixtures for lighting. But how do you interface to that? It's not clear, it's now a bit of a Wild West. So, we started projects that would label the light coming off the fixtures by modulation. If you modulate every fixture with a unique code, then you can see how much illu

mination comes from each fixture with a small, simple sensor. On our lighting controller, I can just dial my lighting as I want and it will be op

timally using only the illumination it needs from proximate fixtures. It could be a wearable that I have on my wrist or eyeglasses that become my

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In our tests, the smart HVAC had a significant effect on energy consumption, and it optimizes comfort as well as energy. Our current lighting

controllers run off context. Knowing more or less what I'm doing, it knows the kind of situa

tion I'm in and adjusts the lighting to be opti

mal for that. We've basically projected complex lighting into control axes optimized for humans.

Instead of working with sliders or presets, the system can automatically adjust and converge pretty quickly into the lighting you want. I have a student wearing a Google Glass and the room illuminates automatically according to what she is doing. The lighting will change if she moves around or if she is in a social situation versus a work situation. It detects this, and will smoo

thly change the lighting to be appropriate.

Of course, we can also optimize for energy consumption as well as satisfying contextual

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And now, it's not just lighting: we're also wor

king with projection. Before too long we will have surfaces covering entire walls that provi

de dynamic video imagery. We now have large monitors, of course, and eventually we'll have smart wallpaper. How do you control that to bring the right atmosphere into the room? We look at it responding to the individual, because we can measure affective parameters as well: Are you stressed? Are you relaxed? Are you into flow? What is your internal state? We can start to estimate that and have the room respond accor

dingly. The precise way we respond is different for everybody and can change—the system has

to learn. But we discovered that it can learn sequences of images and lighting and bring you into a certain state that can be better suited to

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*With all these technologies, what is your
vision of our daily life in ten years time?*

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sioned in the early 90s already, when ubiquitous computing first came about at places like Xerox PARC, in Palo Alto, with people like Mark Wei

ser and all the early pioneers. They had the idea that computational infrastructure would beco

me common—almost a socialistic principle

whereby we would share this infrastructure. In those days, you didn't have mobile phones, monitors were precious things usually asso

ciated with a particular computer. I think we're going to get into an era where the information world will be continuously brokered between wearables and infrastructure. Information will reach you in different ways—projected right into your eyes and ears or coming from moni

tors and speakers nearby. In this world, sensor data from everywhere will flow up, and context will flow down, to guide what you're doing, or to guide the “digital” things that are happening in your vicinity. It's not like we're going to pull a phone out—I think there will be very little of that, where we run an app and then have to do stuff that diverts our attention. The world isn't an app, and under ubiquitous computing users will always be adding on capabilities instead of

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It's just going to be us doing what we do—the digital world is going to manifest in the right way around us, and we're going to live under that pooled infrastructure. In a way it ushers in the dream of what early researchers in ubiqui-

tous computing were after.

Machine-learning is advancing enormously

we're only seeing the beginnings of it now.

Context has always been hard, because the real world is noisy. Making a reliable decision about what you're doing is tough. However, it has gotten better because we've got more informa-

tion, more data. We are also better at learning algorithms, utilizing deep learning and related approaches and hardware optimized for this kind of thing. This is going to be leveraged far more. We're going to be moving away from put-

ting our fingers on screens.

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And how will this impact the way we design houses, office buildings, etc.?

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That's a great point. I'm not an architect, but

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public space is already changing. Look at a contemporary office space: people work in open environments, but I think people naturally also want to work in private environments too. There is a tension between both. It depends on what the team is doing and what the dynamic is. I think there are going to be different ways of isolating yourself in a public environment

wearables are one example. There will also be a revolution in connecting to other people in

public and private environments—where other people can virtually be in your presence in many different ways, not just via a video confe

rence. I suspect that this kind of infrastructure will change the nature of perceived space. There will be public displays conveying all kinds of information, both personal and aesthe

tic, related to the space. Lighting will be totally dynamic and everything will be networked. Think of a building where you have a wearable computer. What is it going to be like? It's an intriguing idea that people have explored in science-fiction and fantasy, but it's not so far off now. Currently, we're playing with a HoloLens from Microsoft and we've got an entire outdoor landscape manifesting on this table. You wear this thing, and suddenly you see this beautiful outdoor setting which you can virtually walk around, see sensor information manifesting on it, point to it and interact. This was in the realm of fantasy, but we're building it now. The roles for the virtual and the real are going

to change. These constructs will be mobile, and you're going to bring your virtual bubble with you as you walk around. The future definition of the individual is similarly intriguing. This will all probably affect workspaces and social spaces too. I don't know exactly how it will roll out, but it will involve very creative architects—they can go a long way with this, I'm certain.

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Can you tell us more about your work that involves nature and the living?

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One of our projects relates to an outdoor lo

cation we called Tidmarsh. It's an old bog that used to grow cranberries. These farms all mo

ved north because of economic change, climate change, and change in the plants themselves. Much of Tidmarsh's 600 acres has been turned back to nature. Rather than make a shopping mall or development, the owners really want to return it to what it originally was, a wetland. So, it's been bulldozed, it's been changed, and we're interested in capturing this whole pro

cess. We built low-power wireless sensors for measuring the parameters of the wetland as

it is restored, and scattered them all over se

veral locations to get fine-grain data which we're now manifesting in a virtual world. Just like we do with the building in DoppelLab, you can now virtually go to this outdoor place and float through it, see the sensor information as it comes up through animations. We've got thir

ty microphones in part of the landscape, so as you're moving you can hear the natural world. The sensors make music too. We've got three or four different compositions that are driven by the sensor data in real-time. We could do a city in that way too, in principle. So, this becomes a whole new art form, that is just starting to ma

ture and which intrigues us very much.

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Like a virtual city?

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We call it, instead of sensor visualization, or sensor virtuality, sensor “visceralization.” It’s all kind of precognitive, hence visceral. We’ve built a framework where any kind of sensor can be used by any application, which is so important for the internet of things. You can also run

it with VR headsets like HoloLens, Rift, or Vive. We are very interested in the idea of sensory augmentation. We're going to start with the au

dio. If you're looking across a certain area, we detect that you're concentrating on something there, then we'll feed up sounds from the mi

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crophones that are there, the sensors in the vicinity will be making some sonification or some music that will be blended in, and we'll track your head, your location, and some idea of your sensory focus. In as natural a way as we can, we'll see how much we can get away with expanded perception—what we call a “sensory

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*In that kind of environment, the boundaries
of the living, where the natural starts and
ends, become very vague.*

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This is going to be a major issue in the future.
The world of information wants to have a pre

sence in the real world in different ways, and

we're blurring that boundary a bit. But we're not going completely virtual. Most of the stuff in VR really is VR, where you're just in a virtual space and that's it. What we do is to have the real wor

ld driving the virtual environment in real time. We call it resynthesized reality, built on top of what we call cross-reality—it's another idea of a distributed top layer that is resynthesizing per

ceived reality through the sensor data.

People will be growing up in this world. We're getting to the point where we don't need to pose a query to the web—it's going to be driven by context and what the digital world, or the cloud, or the virtual world thinks is important. We're basically going to augment humans at first via these techniques and resources. Some of them will be cognitive, some of them will be visceral or sensorial. Eventually, we're going to transform ourselves and everything via sculp

ting DNA—who knows what we'll do if we go far enough? There are other people working on

those aspects here. That's an intriguing future that is highly discontinuous.

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Another technological dilemma we found in philosophical literature is how far we go in geo-engineering or eco-engineering. What's your vision of this issue?

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R A D I S O

We need all the tricks at our disposal because we need to be ready and looking at all the possible climate forecasts—we're soon going to be at a point where we'll be seeing signifi

cant warming effects. Eventually, if we spray the sulfates or whatever else into the stratos

phere, it may relieve some of the symptoms of warming without huge side effects, although we don't know the climate well enough to say for sure what will happen in detail. We have to make better models, do some limited tests of these ideas, see what's possible, effective, and feasible. The danger is that we see it as a pa

nacea—"Oh, we can just spray some stuff and then we can keep on burning fossil fuels"

that's the worst possible outcome. We've got

to get off of carbon-based energy, maybe use techniques like these to control temperatures in the near future. Then, if we knew how to pull carbon effectively out of the air at some point, we can fix this properly and regulate actual cli

mate. We're going to have to master the climate anyway someday, because it goes through na

tural cycles. If humans are around long enough for that to affect us, I think we'll have to be able to deal with it, unless we get to a point where we don't care about climate, for example if we have transcended into something else that's climate agnostic. We are on the cusp of seeing what that is going to be. It's an exciting time to be around, because no matter what happens there will be profound changes and we are close to seeing

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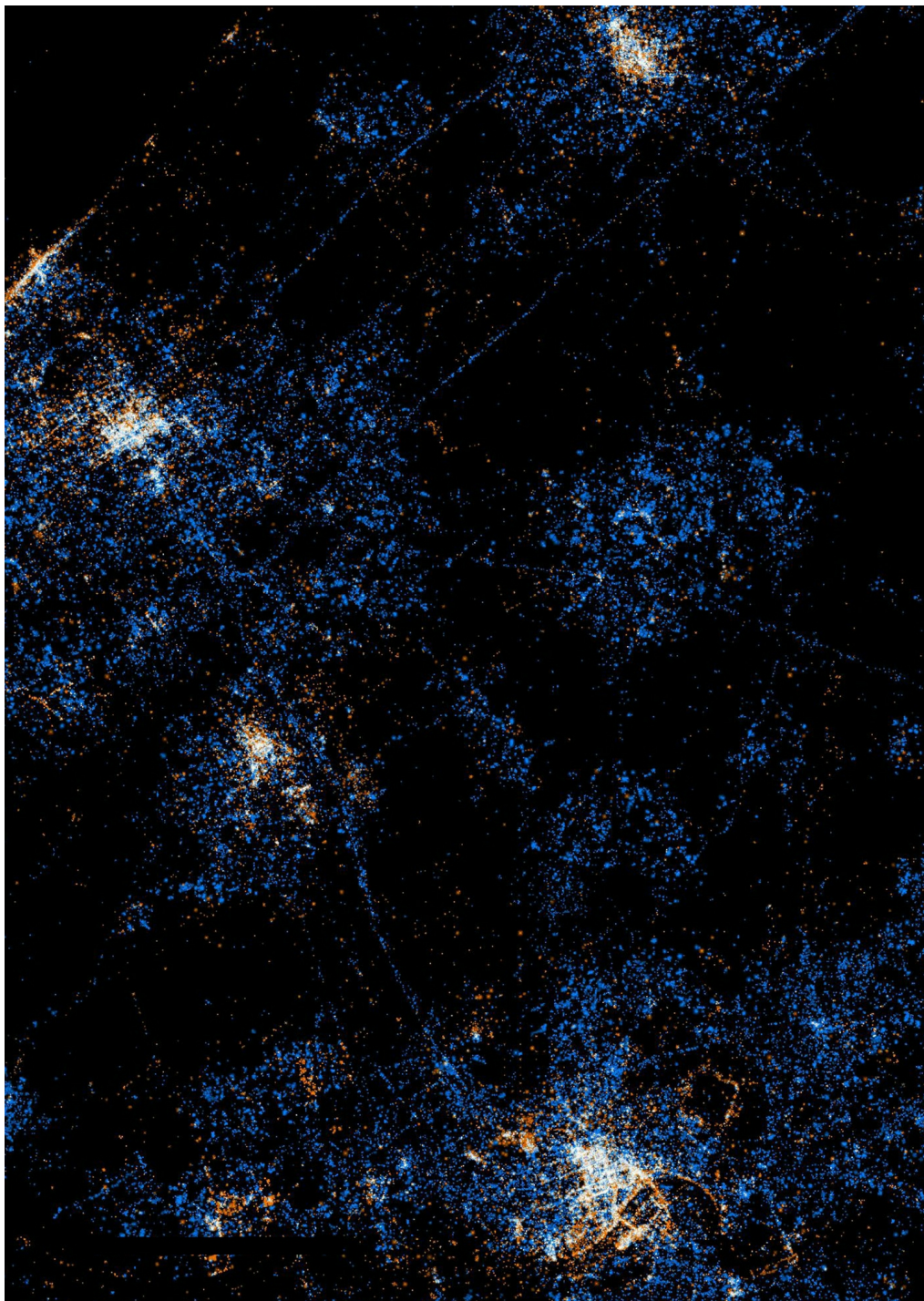
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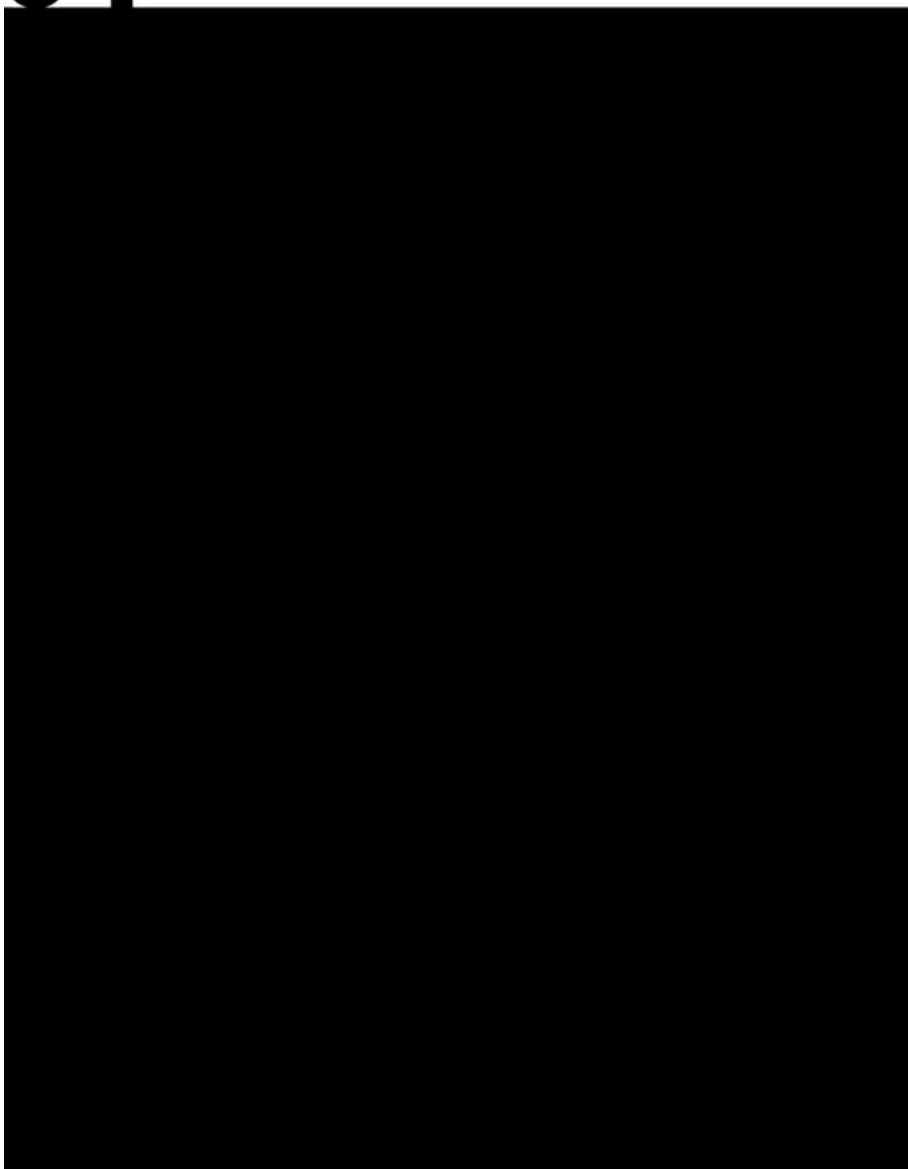
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*Vous proposez la notion
d'«habitèle» pour définir une
nouvelle façon d'habiter le cyber*

*espace. Entre habit, habitacle
et habitat, l'habitèle serait une*

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*notre réalité sociale et servirait
d'interface à un extérieur virtuel.
Pouvons-nous contrôler ou agir sur
ce nouvel espace virtuel ?*

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O U L L I E R

J'ai introduit cette notion d'« habîtèle » pour donner un cadre conceptuel aux enveloppes que nous créons dans l'univers numérique. Nous pensons aujourd'hui surtout en termes de réseaux, de connexions, ce qui nous fait perdre une dimension fondamentale : notre capacité à créer un intérieur. L'habit, l'habîacle ou l'habitat, façonnés par la technologie en constituant des enveloppes et des intérieurs, nous pouvons dire que nous habitons. La question est : habitons réellement le numérique, ou si nous ne faisons qu'en simple condition d'y loger ? Car loger n'est pas dire habiter. Nous ne pouvons y transformer nos vies, ne nous affecte que modérément. Habiter signifie de transformer techniquement l'environnement, au fil du temps et des habitudes. Lorsque vous avez l'impression que votre exploration est

formate avec des algorithmes dont vous ignorez la portée et la prise sur ce monde virtuel. Les plateformes nous génèrent, les contenus que nous publions nous laissent, sans que nous sachions exactement

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L'habitèlè repose sur les habitudes, ce cou
environnement technique – qui devient un
un extérieur qu'on intériorise. L'idée prof
reprendre prise sur le monde pour éviter le
de « rugosités » qui vous invitent à constitue
vous sont propres, sont appelées en ergon
architectes d'intérieur et designers sont le
donnant envie d'habiter un intérieur, un qu
actuellement enfermés dans une forme de
réseaux alors même que leur intérêt réside
monde simultanément. À la manière du tub
anytime you want, but you can never leave
vous est offert alors qu'en réalité les platefo
n'accompagnent votre capacité à habiter, a
Cependant, l'habitèlè ne recouvre pas non
C'est plutôt une relation, un phénomène de
et d'échanger tout en régulant un minimum
jouer sur la distance et le contrôle pour évit
de préserver un espace ou des données pe

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L'idée d'habiter est difficile à concevoir lors d'un monde numérique, parce que nous avons l'impression d'accumuler les applications, d'ajouter du contenu à la connectivité ou d'avoir accès à de plus en plus de données. L'habitèle est aujourd'hui centrée sur le téléphone et tend à devenir de plus en plus hybride, à la fois téléphone et pièce d'identité. Mais pour construire, il suffit pas d'entasser de manière désordonnée des briques de construction, des briques aux meubles. Il faut la conception et le design qui permettent d'organiser. L'accumulation désordonnée désoriente et perd le sens de l'intérieur, de l'habitat ou de l'appartenance. L'affaire est de comprendre comment en tant qu'habitants arriverons à redéfinir notre environnement, les conditions d'accès et, au final, à concevoir l'habitat que nous logeons aujourd'hui dans des plateformes

savons toujours pas y construire notre habi

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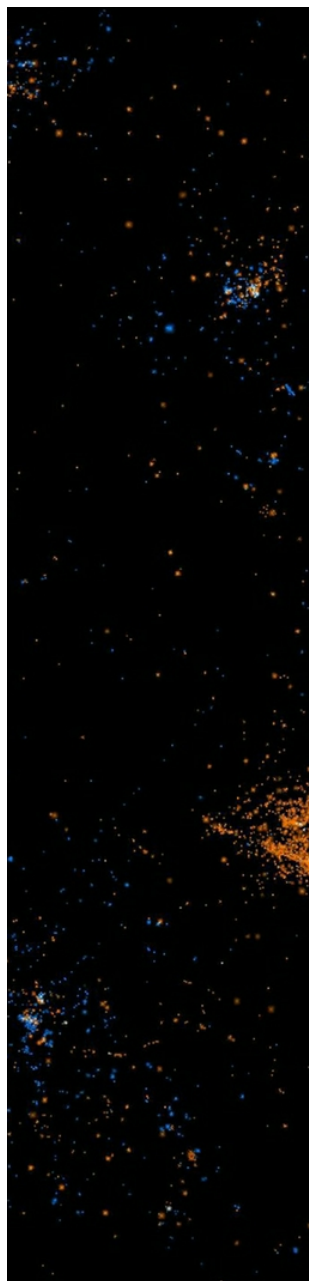
*Quelles sont les conséquences de l'application
spatialités urbaines ? De la même façon que
modifiée par un habitacle, celui de la voiture
sur la ville ?*

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Les lignes montrent le trajet parcouru par un même photographe
l'intérêt d'un lieu. Les différentes vitesses de déplacement sont m
The lines show the distance traveled by the same photographer between a
The different speeds of movement are indicated by different colors used to

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Représente les géolocalisation des messages déposées sur Tweeter ainsi les lieux dont on parle et ceux que l'on montre.

Represents the geo-localization of messages posted on Twitter (blue) and we speak of with those that we show.

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L'automobile a d'abord été pensée comme et non comme un habitacle. Son succès est mouvante et « customisable » qu'elle crée à laquelle les transports en commun parviendrait d'ailleurs intéressant de réfléchir à le cette demande d'habitable. Si l'on transpose avons généré des réseaux, des antennes, toujours plus performants, mais nous les performances techniques, sans prendre en façons d'être pouvant ne pas nous convenir de réaliser que l'essentiel ne réside pas da

mais bien dans l'ouverture d'une possibilité
liée à ces autres systèmes que sont l'habit, l'habitat.
Les dispositifs de communication tendent à intégrer
nos habits, à devenir *wearable*. La voiture autonome
dispositif connecté par exemple, ce qu'illustre
nous ne sommes plus focalisés sur l'action de conduire
de consulter du contenu ou d'entretenir des relations.
dispositifs censés nous créer des enveloppes
en connexion avec l'habitèle, l'enveloppe urbaine
urbaine est également vouée à intégrer ces
les réseaux dans leur ensemble. Nous créons
dans le métro : les têtes sont baissées sur les
dans les oreilles... Plutôt que de refuser ou
de vie, plutôt que de vouloir « créer du lien »
eu, la question est davantage de concevoir
empilement de bulles qui se frottent et s'inscrivent
les futurs enjeux de design des transports,
publics, de l'habitat lui-même et de l'urbain.

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*Le numérique permet un changement d'échelle
en cause les notions de centralité, d'accessibilité.
Quelles nouvelles formes prend alors l'urbain ?*

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C'est précisément ce changement d'échelle que nous appelons
« le médium, c'est le message ». Les trois quarts de la population mondiale
potentiellement connectés en même temps, partout dans le monde ni tout le temps. En revanche, nous avons vu cela
pour la première fois dans l'Histoire – quasiment le même cas de figure
entier : le téléphone portable. Son potentiel est immense
des possibles si l'on considère que nous ne sommes pas
globalisé, contrairement à ce que l'on dit, mais que nous
interconnectons des bulles individuelles et d'entreprises.

davantage un générateur de rencontres – s

qu'un centre de commandement permetta
activités et nos données.

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Nous n'habitons pas un monde global, mais nous pouvons – et c'est le terme clef dans cette affaire – commuer. La commutation, terme technique venu des télécommunications, est la relation des correspondants à travers un centre commun : la vie de famille, centres d'intérêt... l'expérience de passer d'un monde social à l'autre instantanément. L'absence de ces différents mondes qui ne sont pas connectés à aucun central, c'est vous qui passez de l'un à l'autre. On rejoint une caractéristique fondamentale du monde : la capacité d'offrir l'accès à différents univers. La particularité essentielle du téléphone portable est au temps, non pas liée au numérique en soi, mais à la façon nous vivons. Nous avons développé une logique d'information et d'immédiateté qui s'est étendue à la finance bien entendu, la haute fréquence dans l'ensemble de nos activités individuelles nous font tous vibrer de la même façon, au même rythme, cette façon d'exister collectivement à travers le monde. La manière dont la ville respire en est directement affectée. Ce n'est pas seulement questions d'espace ni de proximité, mais d'apparences isolées, nous partageons po

rythmes et sollicitations. Nous ne sommes pas
d'urbanisme, mais c'est pourtant ce qu'appelle
d'existence basée principalement sur la habi-

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*L'habitèle est un monde dynamique, mais pour
Lussault, en vous citant, parle de « digital flânerie
avec le monde et avec soi-même, dériver... »
la contemplation et du rapport aux sens ?*

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Notre connectivité ne se limite pas à des ré-

serveurs, l'enjeu est une reconnexion possible d'attachements que nous avons perdus ou, coupés. Cela rejoint les « cosmopolitiques » de Bruno Latour et Isabelle Stengers, pour tenter de penser le mouvement moderne, en tant que rupture qui a amenés à nous couper de la nature, des atmosphères et sensations qui peuplent notre univers et nous

—
alors que les sociétés traditionnelles savaient gérer les des morts. Le modèle moderne consiste à créer des d'entités, à existence fixe et non à géométrie variable. Les techniques que nous établissons nous amènent à un nouveau paradigme. Nous apprenons à vivre avec des machines humaines à proprement parler, mais qui les traitent comme un profil Facebook, un compte Uber, ou même que l'on « note », ou même des « bots » indéterminés.

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Exploration des comportements en ligne sur Twitter pour révéler les sentiments (cas, le Masters 2012, tournoi mondial et annuel de golf)

An exploration of online behaviors on twitter to reveal the feelings generated

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Le cyber espace ne peut être réduit à un simple outil. Si nous apprenons à vivre avec des mémoires numériques, la sensorialité de l'expérience, elle peut nous enrichir. En forêt, téléphone portable en main, écouter la nature voudrait faire de vous un être coupé de son environnement. Capable de « faire parler la forêt » – comme la musique associée à l'instant vécu, de donner du sens, augmentez votre expérience de la forêt. Et l'ensemble des espaces qui nous enveloppent. La navigation sur internet éloigne bien souvent le motif qui a motivé la connexion de départ. Cette sérénité, cette flânerie et de dérive. Des associations se forment, sont ainsi démultipliées par le numérique, créant une sensorielle d'une couche supplémentaire liée au réseau social, à des événements... Vous pouvez exploiter les propriétés de l'expérience selon un imprévu partagé. Il est devenu courant de voir plusieurs personnes regarder un même écran de téléphone portable. Imaginez que votre téléphone transforme en outil de projection, vous auriez pu transformer un lieu, un moment ou une expérience en autre chose. Cette connectivité permet des

pour le dire en termes psychanalytiques, e
sérendipité, totalement opposée à la philo
maître, ouvre un ensemble de possibles, d
virtuels, au sens premier du terme.

L'immersion est une dimension très recher
contemporaine. Contrairement à ce que le
jamais à l'extérieur. Nous sommes à l'intéri
d'être humain, au-delà même de notre exp
de dispositifs rendant palpable cette intéri

—
bien davantage que de posséder des outils
depuis une position de surplomb —, notamr
réduire notre coupure moderne au monde
l'habité le rejoint ainsi le « devenir avec », a
transformation collective qui doit nous per

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The growing presence of information technology and data between the real and the virtual. Specializing in digital and Dominique Boullier proposes the notion of “habitele” as a city that we create in the digital realm. This notion allows us to enter the digital, but also to imagine the ways in which we regulate to avoid technology—which formats our experience—having preserving the porosities that allow exchange to take place accumulate technologies, but to redefine our environment digital interior. The urban form is destined to become part of depending on systems that are not simply stacks of bubbles existence that the digital brings with it.

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You introduced the concept of “habitele” to

define a new way of living in cyberspace. Habitele is a whole new envelope that is somewhat related to the previous envelopes of habit (in the sense of clothing), the habitacle (a dwelling place or cockpit, in French), and habitat. It augments our social reality and acts as an interface with the virtual exterior. Can we take control over this new virtual space or act upon it?

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develop a conceptual framework to the envelopes
we create in the digital world. We now prima

riarily think in terms of networks and connec

tions, which causes us to lose sight of a key di

mension—our ability to create interior worlds.
Habit, the *habitable*, and *habitat* are shaped by
technology, nonetheless they influence our lives
by bringing into existence envelopes and inte

riors. It is through them that we can say that we
“inhabit” a place. The question is thus to know
whether we really inhabit the digital world, or

rather if we are simply at this time only in a position to dwell there? Staying at a hotel for instance doesn't amount to living there (*inhabiting* it). In this case, we cannot transform our environment and, conversely, it has only a very mild impact on us. Inhabiting a place, on the contrary, implies being able to technically transform the environment and, in turn, to be transformed by it, over time and through our routines. When you surf the web with Google, you get the impression that your exploration is personalized. In reality, Google is formatting it with algorithms we are not even aware of that limit our hold on this virtual world. Internet platforms also put to use the traces we generate, the content we publish, and even the comments we leave, without our knowing exactly for what purposes. The *habitele* is based on personal routines, that

is, the pairing between a technical environment that becomes a new expression of ourselves and an exterior that we internalize. The core idea is about thinking of ways to regain control over the world. In ergonomics, these kinds of “rough” patches that invite us to form our own specific ambiances and climates are called “af

fordances.” Architects, interior designers, and product designers uphold these mediums of in

dividual freedom that give us the desire to inha

bit an interior space, a neighborhood, or a city. We are currently locked in a form of digital fata

lity; we are entrapped in networks even though their value lies in the simultaneous understan

ding of the world. To quote the lyrics from *Hotel California*, “You can check out anytime you want but you can never leave.” We are under the im

pression that a service is provided for free when

in reality platforms are control our capacity to inhabit and build our environment more than they support us along that path.

Yet, the habitele is not about individuals having full control either. It is more of a relationship, a porosity that allows for effective communication and exchange, while providing a modicum of ac

cess control. The important thing is to learn how to adjust distance and control to prevent bunker rationales, which deprive us of any kind of com

munication with the world around us under the

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false pretense of safeguarding spaces or personal data. It is difficult to grapple with the idea of inhabiting the digital world because we are under the impression that the point is simply to load up on apps, get more bandwidth, increase connectivity, or access an increasing number of tools and appliances. The habitele is currently focused on our smartphones, these increasingly hybrid devices that act not only as telephones but also as computers, means of payment, and ID cards. But one cannot build a house simply by randomly piling up all the required parts, from bricks to furniture. It is indeed architecture, drafting, and design that allow an interior to be produced. A haphazard aggregation confuses more than it helps make sense of an interior, form a habitat, or foster appropriation. The key element here is to understand how we will manage to redefine our environment *qua* “connected

beings,” so as to produce the limitations and the conditions of access, and, ultimately, to design a digital interior. We are currently dwelling on these platforms without creating any interiors; we still do not know how to build our *habitele* there and that is the whole point.

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What are the consequences of the application of the habitele concept on urban spatialities? In the same way that the urban form has been profoundly transformed by the habitacle of cars, what can we expect the impact of the habitele on cities to be?

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L I E R

Cars were initially designed as technical mobility devices and not as *habitacles*. Their success was nevertheless closely tied to the moving and customizable bubble that they create around users, which is why public transport struggles to take over. As a matter of fact, it would be interesting to think about the future development of public transport bearing in mind this demand for a *habitacle*. Carrying over this example to the digital world, we have generated increasingly powerful networks, antennae, cables, and technical systems but we think of them only in terms of their technical performance, without taking into account the fact that they encapsulate ways of being that may not suit us. Thinking in terms of *habitele* helps us become aware that what matters is not stashing and amassing things, but

rather opening up a new possibility for shared control that would be intimately connected to these other systems of *habit*, the *habitable*, and
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Communication devices increasingly tend to be weaved into our *habit*, to become wearable. Cars also aspire to become connected devices, as is the case with self-driving cars. If we aren't focused on the act of driving anymore, then we can view content or stay socially connected, among other possibilities. All devices that are supposed to create physical envelopes are now becoming connected with the *habiteles*, our

all-encompassing digital envelope. The urban form is set to accommodate these individual de

vices as well as the networks as a whole. We are already creating bubbles around us in the metro we sit heads bowed, with our headphones plug

ged in and our eyes on our phones. Rather than to refuse this or to criticize these new lifestyles, rather than wanting to promote social bonding where there has never been any, the primary question at stake relates to designing an arran

gement that isn't simply a stack of bubbles that scrape against one another and incense each other. Therein are the future challenges of trans

port, vehicles, public spaces, habitat itself, and urban issues in general.

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Digital technology makes it possible to

*scale up all the while remaining motionless,
which calls into question the notions of
centrality, accessibility, proximity, and even
that of diversity. What new forms does virtual*

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I Q U E B O U L L I E R

This is precisely the change of scale that Marshall McLuhan describes when he wrote that “the medium is the message.” Three quarters of all human beings may now be “connected” at any given time, but not necessarily to everyone nor all the time. However, and for the first time in human history, we seem to have almost the same technical framework used throughout the world as the cellphone. Its virtual potential represents an opening-up of possibilities considering that we are not in a globalized world but, despite alle

gations to the contrary, in a world that connects and interconnects individual bubbles and social circles. Connectivity is more of a generator of encounters, which are often unpredictable and

random, than a command center that allows for the piloting and control of our activities and data. We are not living in a global world but in a *nu*

mber of social worlds between which, and this is the key word here, we *switch*. Switching, in its telecommunications-specific sense, is about in

terconnecting correspondents via a telephone exchange. The experience of the mobile phone similarly enables us to instantly switch from one social world to another—from a work situation to family life, to a hobby, and so on. There is no need for a central office to interconnect these various worlds that aren't actually linked to

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each other: you simply switch from one world to another. In this respect, digital technologies are comparable to an essential feature of the city, which has always had this capacity to grant access to different universes, although only in

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The specificity of mobile phones is that they have created a new relationship with time that isn't related to digital technologies *per se*, but rather is intrinsic to the times we are living in. We have developed a platform approach that generates an insatiable desire for information and immediacy that has extended to all our acti

vities: in the world of finance of course (high-frequency trading), but also in real time with the media, in all our individual activities, even down to the notifications that causes us all to vibrate in the same way, at the same moment. Twitter makes this way of existing collectively through what I call “replications” very obvious. The way the city breathes is directly impacted as a result given that it is now not just about space and proximity: though we live in bubbles that are apparently isolated, we nevertheless share the same emotions, the same rhythms, and so

licitations. We aren’t accustomed to think of these rhythms in terms of urbanism, but this is nevertheless what digital technologies bring about—a new layer of existence that is mainly based on high frequency.

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The habitele is a dynamic world, but can it be viewed as being a “living” one? When discussing your work, Michel Lussault used the term “digital flaneurs”. Being moved, being in communion with the world and oneself, drifting... All that is possible, but what about contemplation and the relationship to our senses?

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Our connectedness is not limited to technical networks and servers; what is at stake is the possible reconnection to a set of attachments that we have lost, or, in a modern logic, that we have

severed. This ties in with the “cosmopolitics” I am working on with Bruno Latour and Isabelle Stengers, to try to understand how the modern movement, by severing our attachments, cause us to also be divorced from nature, animals, and all the sensations that populate our universe and our experience, and also, despite the fact that traditional societies knew better, to be removed from the world of spirits and the dead. The mo

dern model argues that there is only one kind of entity, with a fixed existence rather than a variable geometry. However, the technical connec

tions that we establish lead us beyond this paradigm. We learn to live with enti

ties that aren’t, strictly speaking, human, but that represent humans, such as Facebook profiles and Uber accounts, which we “like” or “rate,” o

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Cyberspace cannot be reduced to a mere set of “disjoined” data. It can teach us to live with living memories. Connectivity is not a replace

ment for the sensoriality of experience, it can even augment it. During a walk in the woods with a telephone in hand and your headphones on, modern logic would deem you severed from nature. Yet, if you are capable of “making the fo

rest speak,” as is the case in many civilizations, through a soundtrack that is tied to the living moment, received data, or storytelling, one’s forest experience can be augmented. And the same applies of course to the city and all the spaces that surround us.

When we browse the internet, we often stray away from what we were initially looking for. This serendipity ties in with the idea of *flânerie* (strolling around) and drifting. Associations are formed and encounters are magnified by digital technology, which bundles sensory experience with an additional layer related to information, social networks, events, and so on. The proper

ties of experience are then transformed accor

ding to a contingency that might also be shared. Seeing several people looking at the same mo

bile device has now become commonplace. Imagine that this turns into a projection tool, you will then have the possibility to transform a place, a moment, or a collective experience into something that is completely different. This connectivity allows for “free associations,” to put it in psychoanalytical terms, and this is what makes it interesting. Serendipity, which is the complete opposite of the philosophy of techno

logy as a master, opens up a number of new possibilities, potentialities, and virtualities, in the original sense of the term.

Immersion is highly sought after in the digital experience of today. Contrary to the belief of the moderns, we are never outside. We are in

side something throughout our entire existence as human beings, beyond even our prenatal life

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give tangible reality to this interiority is very im

portant, much more than owning tools that make
it possible to master the world from above, par

ticularly given that it could help us reduce our
modern disconnection from the world. One of
the key ideas of the *habitele* thus converges with
what Donna Haraway calls a “becoming-with,”
that is, a collective transformation that must help

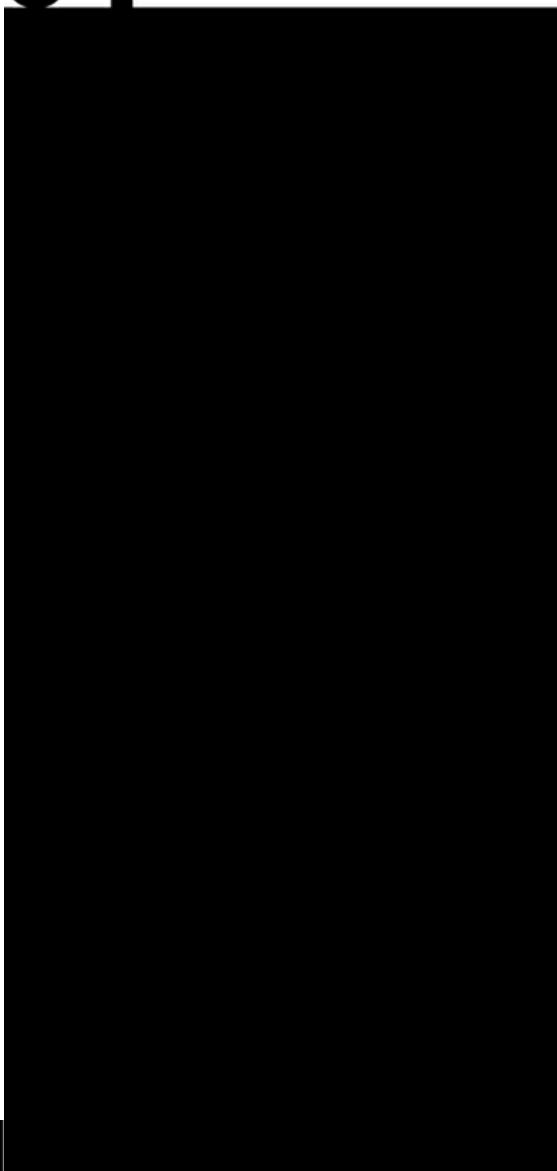
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assez pionnière sur les plateformes numériques au service de l'internet hétérogènes, j'ai pu appréhender la capacité d'émerger de manière horizontale de nouvelles plateformes numériques sont des outils permettant de croiser de grands volumes d'information que l'on vient connecter pour de nouvelles applications. Malgré tout, j'ai vite compris que le technoparc est la mort de la ville au sens où il y efface la place des interactions sociales qui s'y tissent.

4/5 de la population française habite sur 20 % du territoire, et 2 % de la surface de la planète. Aujourd'hui plus de la moitié de ses habitants vivent en ville. La ville représente donc un enjeu majeur, mais

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Au-delà de la smart-city

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premier est surtout que nous nous y sentions. Je me suis donc intéressé à la construction urbaine non du seul point de vue des infrastructures, mais aux interactions numériques, mais au travers de l'humain, de ses besoins et de l'appropriation de l'espace. Dans un monde où l'homme a connu l'ubiquité, l'hyper-collectivité et l'omniprésence, il est indispensable d'établir un dialogue autour de la gouvernance de la ville, tout en favorisant une implication citoyenne à tout instant, et le tout en projection à moyen et à long terme. L'objectif étant d'apporter de la qualité de vie aux habitants de la ville, de lutter contre les inégalités – très présentes dans le milieu urbain – et de développer l'inclusion sociale, dans une ville qui doit être en harmonie avec la nature et respectueuse de ses équilibres.

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Plutôt que de parler de smart city, considérez-vous la définition « intelligente », vous préférez la notion de

vous comparez à un organisme. Qu'entende

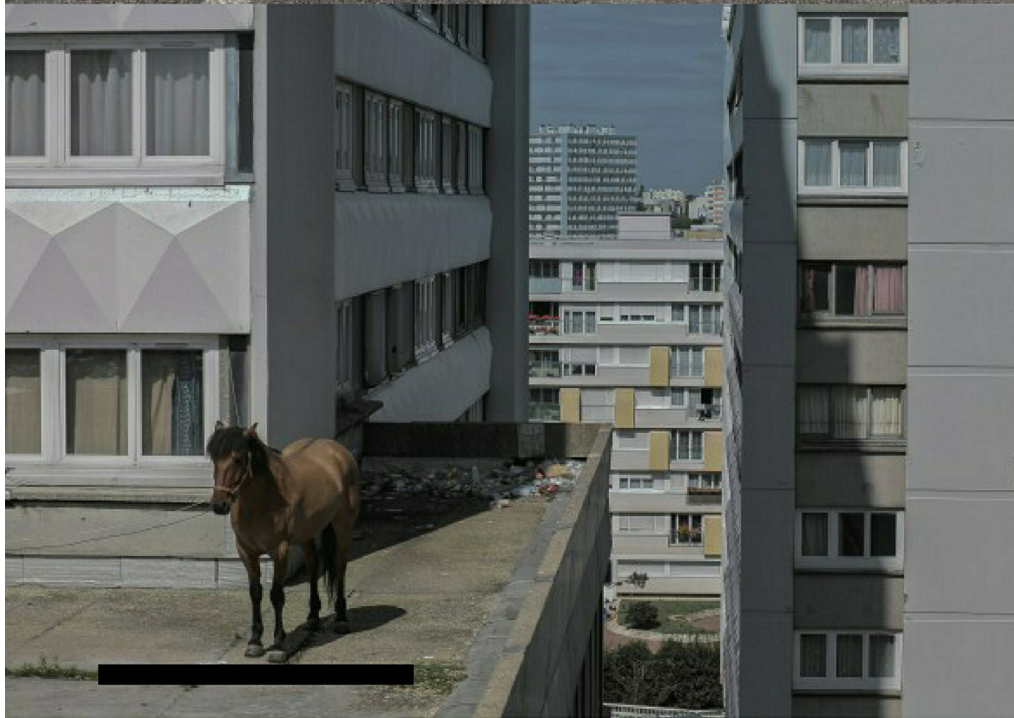
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Il ne suffit pas de respirer pour considérer qu'une capacité métabolique, aussi indispensable. De la même manière, il ne suffit pas de pouvoir vivre, d'y bénéficier d'énergies propres ou de consommation, ni même d'évoluer dans un environnement débarrassé de toute nuisance. L'humain prend en relation avec la société et que s'installe une possibilité de co-construction, de co-création d'idées constitue la base de l'émergence d'un qu'être, identifié par un métabolisme biologique par l'émergence d'une pensée créative, pour réalisations. C'est la base de l'évolution. Je parle de ville vivante car je suis très opposé à la dimension techno-centrée, même si je reste

l'importance de ces outils dans la transform
venu à me désolidariser des tendances des
logiciels, qui appliquent un modèle de ville

coller. Selon cette vision, un centre de cont
plus puissant possible – confère à lui seul so
Mais piloter la coordination des feux rouge
capteurs et augmenter le silicium au mètre
une qualité de vie. Je fais le constat amer d'
qui considère la maîtrise de la technologie
problèmes, alors même qu'elle peut engendr
En Corée, les grands projets de villes techn

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la *smart city* par excellence —, ont été des *go* déjà désertés par la population. De plus en construisent en ignorant la place de l'humain de ses relations aux autres.

L'enjeu essentiel est de trouver une identité permette de se sentir « de quelque part ». Il comprendre la fragilité de la planète dans l'espace et en premier lieu celle de la ville, puisqu'elle est de la consommation d'énergie, 80 % des émissions et 85 % de la richesse mondiale. Alors que le climat littéralement en train de nous asphyxier, elle et tend à se généraliser encore et toujours. Les pandémies sont devenus endémiques, la biodiversité est en crise d'extinction, les fossés sociaux se creusent, l'écologie est de plus en plus inégalitaire, la population mondiale les besoins en nourriture... Dans un monde où un rien suffit à déstabiliser une ville, comme la crue d'une crue centennale à Paris l'a prouvé. Un jour, notre planète de l'est à l'ouest et du nord au sud, vu l'étendue des dégâts entre inondations,

écologiques, catastrophes. D'où l'importance de la résilience, de réinventer le bien du vivant. L'homme est au cœur de la problématique. Lui qui détient les clefs de l'amélioration de la ville vivante, c'est la capacité à comprendre et la façon dont il interagit avec son environnement socio-territorial-urbain. Augustin Berque a défini la relation au milieu *l'écoumène*, actualisant la relation de terres anthropisées établie déjà par Erasme.

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siècle av J.-C. Il cite en ouverture de son livre :

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phrase de Jean-Marc Besse : « entre moi et moi-même, il y a la Terre ». Le monde est un tout et l'homme ne peut le reprendre. Edgar Morin, a séparé artificiellement les choses naturellement liées. Nous appartenons à un monde complexe, composé d'éléments traités d'interrelations, d'interdépendances. La v

n'est autre que la ville qui considère l'ensemble de ces relations pour permettre l'émergence d'idées, pratiques et réalisations.

La *smart city* est humaine avant d'être technique. Medellín est un exemple formidable de résilience et de créativité *low tech*. L'implication de la société dans ses maux et dans l'envie d'apaiser l'urbanisation au monde – du fait de sa domination par la technologie – est fondamental. Elle s'est reconstruite en faveur

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naissance, au mouvement *Cities 4 life*, qui a une dimension internationale. Mais rien n'est acquis, l'impératif de garder très présent dans l'incertitude de nos villes qui meurent, comme les villes industrielles.

Unis, ce qui ne veut pas dire qu'elles ne peuvent pas le faire – preuve – au travers d'une réappropriation du *Do It Yourself*.

La ville vivante est un écosystème créatif dans lequel les citoyens et la gouvernance peuvent échanger. C'est une ville transverse, où la manière de construire n'est pas dictée par une verticalité de la technologie ou de l'architecture. Il s'agit d'une ville à l'écoute, à la recherche de son rythme, de sa respiration, selon un processus au long cours.

La notion de « ville vivante » est profondément liée à celle de « métabolisme urbain ». Cette image fait référence à la capacité de transformation que la ville est capable d'acquiescer de son environnement dans lequel elle puise ses ressources. L'apport d'oxygène et le dégagement de dioxyde de carbone, le flux du sang, les battements du cœur... représentent

fonctionnelle qui doit s'enrichir d'une éme
ce sens je suis extrêmement favorable à la c
face aux États-nations. L'hypermétropole v
Francisco/San Diego) représente 68 millio
l'hyperagglomération virtuelle BOS-WASH
regroupe 70 millions d'habitants. Ces deux
identifiées par le géographe visionnaire Je
son livre *Megalopolis*, dégagent une vitalité
différente de celle de l'État fédéral, ce que
au niveau électoral. Ce sont elles qui résist
première ligne à la politique du président T
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Cette vitalité urbaine forme un contre-pou
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nanotech, les biosystèmes et l'IA qui, conjugués, créent un nouveau rapport de l'humain à lui-même et à son environnement. Certains affirment que le citoyen est parti vers le numérique et les réseaux sociaux, mais je considère que c'est plutôt que le numérique s'installe inéluctablement dans notre vie, que j'appelle l'hybridation social-technologique. Le « cyberspace inversé » fait référence à la manière dont le numérique progressivement sur nos modes de vie.

Le métabolisme urbain se cristallise aujourd'hui autour de l'enjeu climatique, qui est clairement un enjeu de survie pour l'humanité, qui n'a jamais été autant menacée et pour la première fois dans l'histoire par sa propre activité. Le citoyen a aujourd'hui un rôle majeur à jouer qui demande pédagogie, engagement et mobilisation. La révolution numérique, l'hybridation avec la biotech et la nanotech peuvent aider à limiter voire à réparer l'impact de notre activité passée. Des mutations s'amorcent : de notre façon de penser – la prise de conscience de l'Anthropocène –, de construire – préférer le bois au béton –, de jeter – dans une démarche circulaire.

et même de considérer les autres vivants. L'habitat doit être polycentrique et multifonctionnelle, que j'appelle « ville du ¼ d'heure », où les services essentiels sont accessibles en 15 minutes, doit représenter un habitat vivant dans ses matériaux mais également un habitat qu'elle accueille. Il est aberrant que nos espaces de vie – bâtiments, servitudes, espaces communs, garages, lieux d'enseignement... – si cloisonnés, restent vides plus des 2/3 du temps. Le concept de la manière dont nous construisons et ce que nous construisons va à l'encontre du métabolisme. Je fais néanmoins le pari utopique de l'humain en pensant que cela va changer, pour épouser un nouveau paradigme autour de la circularité du vivant, du respect de la dignité et de la qualité de vie au cœur de nos préoccupations urbaines.

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How has your research in computing and robotics helped you to take a fresh approach to the urban question?

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For me technology represents a way of understanding how urban spaces respond to functionality. By working in a quite pioneering manner on digital platforms with the goal of integrating heterogeneous systems, I have managed to grasp the ability of the digital realm to allow new ser

vices to emerge in a horizontal fashion. Digital platforms are tools that allow for the integration and cross-referencing of large quantities of highly differentiated data that can be linked to

gether for new uses. In spite of all that, I quickly understood that techno-centrism would mean the death of the city in the sense that it erases the place of the living and the social interactions that are woven within it.

Eighty percent of the population of France live on twenty percent of its territory, and two percent of the surface of the planet today plays host to half of the world's inhabitants. The city has therefore become a major issue. However, the first prio

rity is for people to feel good within it. There

fore, I became interested in urban construction not only from the point of view of infrastructure and digital interactions, but through the prism of human beings, their needs, and the social ap

propriation of space. In a world where mankind has developed ubiquity, hyper-collectivity, and omnipresence, it is essential to establish a dia

logue with the governance of the city, while at the same time favoring the strong participa

tion of citizens at all times, and all of this over the mid and long term. The essential goal is to provide quality of life to the city's inhabitants, to fight against the many inequalities in the urban environment, and to develop social inclusion, in a city that must be in harmony with nature and respectful of its balance.

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Rather than speaking of the smart city, considering that the city is intelligent by definition, you prefer the idea of the “living city,” that you compare to an organism. What do you mean by this?

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R L O S M O R E N O

It is not enough to breathe to consider oneself alive. This is simply a metabolic ability, as es

sential as it may be. In the same way, it is not enough to be able to breathe in a city, to avail of clean energy or low energy buildings, nor even to enjoy a pollution-free environment. Human beings really come alive when they come into contact with society and acquire a capacity for creation and possibilities for co-construction and co-creation. Exchanging ideas constitutes the basis for the emergence of the living as a being, identified by a biological metabolism but also by the appearance of creative thinking, bringing new creations in its wake. This is the

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While the first real experiences of smart cities, dead on arrival,

bottomless money pits, Carlos Moreno, a researcher in the field of artificial intelligence, contrasts this notion with a new vision of the importance of digital tools in the design and evolution

criticizes the techno-centric and universalist dimension of
of the living and its interactions, literally generating dead c
the other and the way that it interacts with its socio-territori
first and foremost human, the living city advocates relation
ideas and practices. It is a creative ecosystem not dictated
architecture, but based on metabolic exchanges and citize

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the *smart city* in its technocentric dimension,
even though I remain fully aware of the impor

tance of these tools in urban transformation. I
have come to disassociate myself from the ten

dencies of the major software companies who
apply a copy-paste model of the intelligent city.
According to this vision, a control center com

bined with the most powerful monitoring possible provides the city with its own intelligence. But running the coordination of traffic lights, sprinkling sensors around the city, and increasing the amount of silicon per square meter is not enough to ensure quality of life. I bitterly observe an international thinking that considers the mastery of technology as the solution to all our problems, even though it may generate dead cities. In Korea, the large projects of technological cities like Songdo—a prime example of the *smart city*—quickly became money pits and have already been deserted by the population. More and more neighborhoods are being built while ignoring the place of the human being and the importance of their relationships with
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The essential issue is to find a cultural iden

tity that allows one to feel that one is “from somewhere.” It is fundamental to understand the fragility of the planet upon which we live, and first and foremost that of the city, because it re

presents 75 percent of energy consumption, 80 percent of CO₂ emissions, and 85 percent of the world’s wealth. While urban life is literally in the process of asphyxiating us, it remains an object of desire and tends to continue to spread fur

ther and further afield. Peaks in pollution have become endemic, biodiversity is experiencing a new crisis of extinction, social gaps are wide

ning, access to water is increasingly unequal, populations are growing as is the need for food. In a world that is becoming increasingly fragile, cities are becoming easily destabilized, as the study of the risks of a centennial flood in Paris has shown. A simple look at our planet from east to west and north to south can be quite instruc

tive, when one considers the damage caused by flooding, earthquakes, ecological crises, and catastrophes. Hence the importance of taking into account resilience, of reinventing common wealth and an approach to the living. Man is at the heart of the urban issue, it is he who holds the keys to improving his own living conditions. The living city is the ability to understand the other and the way that they interact with their

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Berque calls this relationship with the milieu *the ecumene*, updating the idea of anthropized lands already established by Eratosthenes in the third century A.D. At the beginning of his book he quotes the phrase from Jean-Marc Besse, “Between me and myself, there is the Earth.” The world is a whole and man, to cite Edgar Morin, has artificially separated things that are naturally connected. We are a part of a complex world, made up of transversal elements, or inter

relationships and interdependencies. The living city is nothing other than a city that takes into consideration all of these relationships in order to allow the emergence of new ideas, practices, a
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The *smart city* is human before being technolo

gical. A city like Medellín is a terrific example of resilience, reinvention, and low-tech creativity. Civil society's involvement in the identification of its ills and in the desire to appease one of the most violent cities in the world—due to its domi

nation by the mafia—has played a fundamental role. It was rebuilt in favor of life and gave birth, at that moment, to the *Cities4Life* movement that has taken on an international dimension. Yet, no

thing can be taken for granted; impermanence is an element to be kept very much in mind when faced with the uncertainty of our future. There are also cities that die, like the industrial cities of the rust belt in the United States, which doesn't mean that they cannot be reborn—look to Detroit for proof of this—through re-appro

priation by citizens and in accordance with a
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The living city is a creative ecosystem in which citizens and governance can exchange in a transversal manner, where the way in which things are built is no longer dictated by verticality of technology or of architecture. It is a question of a city that listens, in search of its rhythm,

its breath, according to a process that unfolds over the long term.

The notion of a “living city” is profoundly connected to the idea of an “urban metabo

lism.” This image refers to the process of trans

formation that the city is capable of mobilizing at the heart of the environment from which it draws its resources. The absorption of oxygen and the release of carbon dioxide, the filtering of blood, the beating of the heart, represent a functional

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enriched by a new emergence.

In this sense, I am extremely fa

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while the BOS-WASH (Boston/Washington) virtual hyper-agglomeration groups together 70 million inhabitants. These two clusters, theorized and identified by the visionary geographer Jean Gottmann in his 1961 book *Megalopolis*, reveal an urban vitality that is extremely different to that of the federal State, and we can see this for example on an electoral level. They are the ones who are today on the front lines of resistance to the policies of president Trump, who launched calls to respect environmental agreements, who fight to defend immigrants and numerous fundamental freedoms. This urban vitality forms a counter power to the nation-state that it is fundamental to maintain in order to preserve a human life that is both rich and plural.

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In light of your experience with robotics and artificial intelligence, how do you envisage the way that the living will be taken into account, and its hybridization with technology in the construction of tomorrow's

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The twenty-first century will be one of cities that go “beyond” metropolises, the century of ubi

quity and algorithm-based intelligence, but also

the century of other technological revolutions

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and AI which, when combined, will produce a new relationship for mankind with itself and with urban space. Some say that the city dweller has left to live in the digital and in social networks, but I consider that the opposite is true, that the digital is making itself an inevitable part of our lives. What I call socio-technological hybridiza

tion or even “reverse cyberspace” refers to how these things are gradually influencing our way

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The urban metabolism is today crystalizing around climate issues. This is clearly an issue of survival for humanity, that has never been as threatened as it is, and for the first time in its his

tory, by its own activity. The city dweller today has a major role to play, one that requires pe

dagogy, commitment, and mobilization. The tec revolution and hybridization with biotech and nanotech can help to limit and even repair the impact of our past activity. Change is beginning to affect our way of thinking—the realization of t

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wood to concrete—of discarding—in a circular approach—and even of considering other living things. The polycentric and multifunctional city which I call the “quarter-hour city,” where es

sential services can be accessed in 15 minutes, should represent a living habitat in its chosen materials but also in what it hosts. It is absurd that our vital spaces—buildings, passages, common spaces, garages, learning spaces—so se

pared, remain empty 60 percent of the time. The concept itself of the way in which we build and what we build is in opposition to the urban metabolism. Nonetheless, I am ready, in a uto

pian mindset, to bet on humanism in thinking that this will change, to embrace another pa

radigm around the circular nature of the living, where respect for dignity and quality of life are at the heart of our urban concerns.



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Privilégier le vivant sur la forme

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Votre pratique de paysagiste

*jardinier vous a conduit à
développer le concept de «Jardin*

*en mouvement », qui a marqué
une évolution de la conception
formelle du jardin et du rapport
de l'homme à la nature et au*

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*expliquer la genèse de cette
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de leurs équilibres sans que

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À l'époque où j'étais étudiant

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reposait principalement sur l'action de tuer : nous apprenions à cultiver une plante « intéressante » et à tuer toutes les autres comme « inutiles » ou « incommodes ». Ces pratiques marquaient le début du remembrement et de la stérilisation de la terre, une inouïe pourtant indispensable à l'établissement d'une culture. L'illusion de la maîtrise nous a précipités dans l'ignorance. Aujourd'hui, un exploitant agricole doit maîtriser et la complexité des mécanismes qui régissent la production et travailler en bonne intelligence avec les pouvoirs publics, au lieu d'en encore de dicter et de tuer.

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Yann Monel est d'abord jardinier avant de devenir photographe. Ces images HUMUS en révérence à cette matrice fondamentale qu'est la terre (à la Carrière aux 60 ans d'abandon à Parisien) et exposées à la Villa Romana de Florence, à l'exposition d'images HUMUS en révérence à cette matrice fondamentale qu'est la terre (à la Carrière aux 60 ans d'abandon à Parisien) et exposées à la Villa Romana de Florence, à l'exposition

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Yann Monel was a gardener before becoming a photographer. He baptised HUMUS in reference to the fundamental matrix that he had constantly produced in a quarry that had been abandoned for close to 60 years (the Parisien) and exhibited at the Villa Romana of Florence, at the Jardins Biennial of Contemporary Art of Issy-les-Moulineaux.

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Le Jardin en mouvement est une méthode d'écologie qui privilégie le vivant sur la forme. Cela ne signifie pas l'absence de forme, mais celle-ci apparaît progressivement au fil des années, et elle change en fonction des besoins et du juge important de conserver ou d'enlever. C'est d'un laisser-faire complet mais d'une série de petites interventions mineures, de façon à aller le plus possible à l'encontre de la nature possible contre – la nature. Le jardinier y travaille avec une économie d'énergie contraire, en évitant d'être épuisé par le prétexte de « faire propre » ! Lorsqu'une plante apparaît au milieu d'un cheminement, il est légitime de se poser la question d'en modifier le tracé plutôt que d'enlever les plantes qui s'installent spontanément dans le jardin à considérer ; il n'existe pas de « mauvaises plantes ». Le travail formel vient donc en second dans la mise en ordre de l'espace. La plupart des plantes choisissent leur place, elles sont voyageuses et vagabondes. Le jardin comme à celui de la planète –, portée par les courants, le pelage des animaux, les oiseaux, les insectes. Les plantes que nous connaissons le mieux, les plus communes, avoir été à nos côtés, sont parfois d'introduites.

des cultures druidiques ne sont pas là de toi
ils sont remontés depuis la péninsule ibérique
perdus ici et là par les geais. La noix de coco
du monde, flotte. Elle a étendu son territoire
mais nous ne savons pas avec exactitude où
brassage planétaire fait partie des mécanismes
« Indigène », « invasif », sont des termes qui
considérations culturelles ne prennent pas
tel qu'il fonctionne depuis l'apparition de la terre
les mouvements et les migrations.

Dès lors que l'on prend un peu de recul dans
et le temps, on comprend que le qualificatif
invasive » est galvaudé. Les êtres à développement
s'installent en pionniers et leur croissance
donne l'impression qu'ils colonisent l'espace
la « réponse du milieu » finit toujours par réduire
la présence des espèces. C'est ce qu'on appelle
écosystème émergent. Lorsque le climat change
c'est le cas aujourd'hui pour des raisons diverses
normal que la répartition géographique des espèces
change. Des plantes qui ne pouvaient se développer
certaines zones géographiques le peuvent

inversement. Les migrations, indispensables, font partie du mécanisme de l'évolution.

Privilégier le vivant sur la forme

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Depuis son origine, le jardin est un espace où l'homme cultive ce qu'il a ramené d'ailleurs de plus en plus loin avec les progrès de la technique : le maïs, la pomme de terre, la tomate, la courgette ou l'aubergine – sont des exemples de ce qui nous nourrit. Les légumes de notre alimentation quotidienne – sont des exemples de ce que la planète accueille elle aussi une biodiversité qui fait partie de notre condition de partage. Elle se compose d'un cycle de la vie et d'une lessiveuse qui recycle tous les éléments, du compost au recyclage du bois a déjà été vue par de nombreux êtres humains. C'est pourquoi il est fondamental de se demander comment nous pouvons dans l'environnement une énergie qu'on y trouve sans pas polluer l'eau de façon irréversible. C'est un défi énorme et un programme politique en soi ! En prenant la mesure de la finitude spatiale du brassage planétaire et de l'omniprésence de l'homme – qui a un impact même là où il ne s'en rend pas compte – j'en suis arrivé à l'idée de Jardin planétaire. Elle suppose que chaque citoyen de la planète est un jardinier, incluant de fait l'humain dans le système Gaïa, ce que Lovelock n'avait pas fait.

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Le jardinier n'est donc plus là pour « domestiquer » ou « lutter contre », mais pour « accompagner le vivant. Il n'est pas rejeté du « jardin idéal ». Alors pourquoi avoir rendu L'Île Derborence du parc Henri Matisse à Lille – inaccessible ?

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Le parc Henri-Matisse se situe sur les limites de la ville, à l'emplacement d'une ancienne friche industrielle, côté par la porte de Roubaix, de l'autre par la porte de Valenciennes. Les matériaux de construction avaient été stockés dans la friche. Par ailleurs, on trouvait notamment des briques Vauban.

ancienne forteresse. J'ai eu envie de reprendre
interroger ce que l'on protège aujourd'hui
la colline de déblais et de laisser la nature s
Abandonner un terrain revient à laisser une
consistait à accélérer le processus d'install
du brassage planétaire – comme échantillon
mais le manque de budget pour planter nor
la nature la constituer à son rythme. La mise
un paysage créé par les énergies de la natu
interdire l'accès mais d'en faire une pièce m

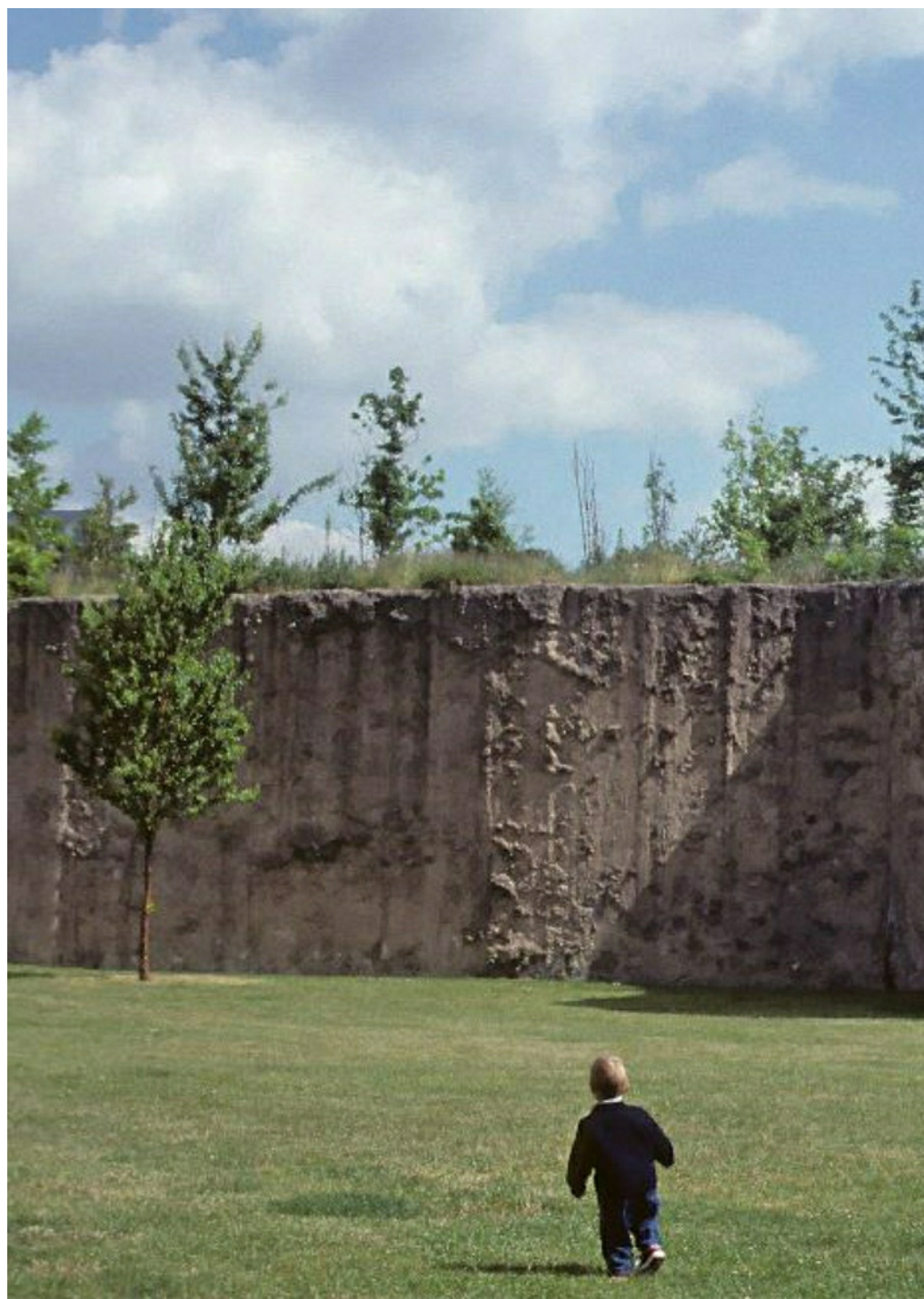
Paysage, à titre pédagogique.

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Privilégier le vivant sur la forme

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Ce que j'appelle Tiers-Paysage correspond à la biodiversité, un territoire d'accueil aux espèces sauvages. Les bordures de routes, friches, les interstices urbains ou tourbières, toutes ces zones ne vont pas, accueillent une biodiversité bien différente des champs, les « espaces verts » bien entretenus, les parcs phytosanitaires, ou même que les sous-bois où la lumière ne passe. Lorsqu'on a compris ça, on ne peut pas avoir notre dépendance à cette diversité, on ne peut pas agir de la même façon. Au lieu de les présenter comme un manque de pouvoir sur l'espace, un abandon ou une négligence, il faut au contraire les considérer comme une revalorisation. On a nommé ces espaces le Tiers-Paysage en référence à l'Abbé Siéyès, qui dit au moment de la Révolution : « Qu'est-ce que le Tiers-État ? – Tout. – Quel rôle a-t-il joué jusqu'à présent ? – Tout. – Qu'aspire-t-il à devenir ? – Quelque chose. »

Ces espaces, c'est tout, et notre avenir en dépend. Je ne dirais pas que le Tiers-Paysage « aspire » à devenir autre chose, que ce n'est pas la biodiversité qui est menacée.

l'homme sur cette planète. Les plantes sont de la chlorophylle à partir de l'énergie du soleil. Elles se situent au bout de la chaîne alimentaire. La forêt continuera sans nous et les plantes s'en sortent. Il est intéressant que nous regardions autrement la forêt, sa longévité. Une friche peut être un trésor. Pour valoriser le Tiers-Paysage au cœur du

Matisse, nous avons coulé des parois de béton

—

aux allures de falaises – autour du monticule – qui permettent de signifier l'aspect précieux du lieu, d'accueillir en son sommet. L'artiste Claude Cahun a proposé la forme de l'île d'Antipode comme modèle pour cet écrin, de ce piédestal, même si nous avons repris celle du parc Henri-Matisse l'« Île Derborence » en référence à l'une des seules forêts primaires d'Europe au sommet d'un piton inaccessible en Suisse. Les huit hectares du parc Henri-Matisse, seuls les

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sommet du monticule sont gouvernés par une forêt totale. L'aspect « manifeste » du projet visait

le grand public sur l'inexactitude de l'asso
espace abandonné à un espace dégradé et
mais le projet n'a pas été compris. Il a été pl
fois mis en péril avant même de voir le jour,
piétiné par la critique comme une friche « in
et incompréhensible. Des arbres ont été pl
devant les parois, dissimulant le socle de v

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scénographique de la forêt primaire, ce qui est stupide. La pédagogie, l'éducation et la science sont des processus au temps long que nous n'avons pas terminé de mener.

Depuis, il m'arrive souvent de proposer qu'un jardin soit accompagné d'un espace mitoyen non clos, en liberté, de façon à servir de réservoir pour les espèces que l'on nomme les « auxiliaires » du jardin, sans rien demander en échange. Je me sens un peu incompris sur ces sujets délicats, mais il s'agit d'un regard qui accompagne un changement culturel. Ce genre de modification des valeurs est toujours en son chemin. Nous sommes véritablement inadaptés et aux capacités de la faune et de la flore, ce qui provoque un sentiment de perte de pouvoir, alors que nous sommes aussi avec et pour nous. Depuis les années 1970, on a fait apparaître une quantité de moyens de communication entre les plantes, par le biais de parfums, de courants électriques, magnétiques et d'autres. Mais cela est d'une grande complexité et, pour l'instant, il n'y a pas de méthode qui permette d'utiliser ce « langage ».

jardiniers sont conscients de l'existence de
depuis de nombreuses décennies. Leurs es-
scientifiques» leur permettaient de faire de
tirer des conclusions comme «le poireau ai-
l'on a beaucoup raillé, alors que c'est absol

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*Plutôt que d'Anthropocène, vous parlez de «
été ignorants, puis stupides, et tentons désor
Quelle vision soutenable du «progrès» alors*

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L'Anthropocène, en tant que transformation de la planète sous l'action de l'homme, débute pour moi avec la sédentarisation de humains, puisque dès la première clairière créée, le paysage s'est trouvé modifié. Cette modification a pris de l'ampleur et de la force avec l'accroissement de la population et l'augmentation des moyens d'action sur terrain. Nous avons abouti au sentiment de pouvoir diriger grâce au génie humain, aux machines et aux produits. L'industrialisation donne une idée de cette vision du monde et marque selon moi l'entrée dans le Stupidoce. La rupture de l'homme à son milieu ne remonte pas à la révolution industrielle.

Privilégier le vivant sur la forme





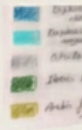
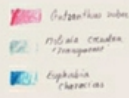
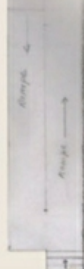
donc pas au développement du monothéisme, l'homme se représente à l'image de Dieu, l'homme est le rapport de compréhension, d'observation qu'il entretenait avec ce qui l'entoure pour « au-dessus » de la nature, il n'atteint pas en Terre. L'altération de la biosphère, pourtant humaine, débute avec les progrès de la chimie, point de produits destructeurs et le taylorisme. Le Stupidocène c'est l'extase de l'illusion du moi, le mien, on transforme les paysages de façon à se souvenir, on stérilise, on imperméabilise. Contrairement à la guerre, l'industrie du Stupidocène tue, mais elle le fait pourtant avec une violence moindre, de morts depuis les débuts de l'utilisation chimique est colossal par exemple.

Dans un espace fini, avec une biosphère limitée spatialement. On ne peut continuer à ronger la planète, le garde-manger, à construire les villes en continuant à défricher les terres fertiles. Tenter de contourner le problème en construisant des villes sur les toits est illusoire. La croissance doit se décaler de la compréhension. Tout le monde peut être

si l'intelligibilité du contexte ne nous est pas
conception du progrès ne correspond pas
du milieu dans lequel nous vivons, mais à un
de la complexité du vivant dont nous faisons
intellectuelle et immatérielle ne demande

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Beyond the pursuit of progress solely as a belief in an ever-world, to compensate for global disruption, new relationships continue to develop. The gardener-landscaper Gilles Clément to all the living beings which interact to maintain the balance

veloped the concept of the “Garden in Motion,” a method of
Rather than a completely hands off approach, it is a collective
rather than oppose it. On an urban scale, his approach as a

abandoned spaces and interstices that form numerous res

val—in a symbolic and pedagogical way. Progress could then
understanding of the complexity of the living of which we are

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*Your practice as a landscaper-gardener has
led you to develop the concept of “Garden in
Motion,” that has signaled an evolution in the
formal conception of the garden and man’s
relationship with nature and the living. Could*

you explain the genesis of this **laisser-faire**

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Gardening places us in a permanent rela

tionship with living beings that establish inte

ractions which are essential to maintaining their

balance and that do not require the intervention

of man. When I was a horticultural student, we

were taught mainly about the act of killing: we

learnt to cultivate an “interesting” plant and

kill all of the other plants, which were de facto

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These murderous gestures signaled the beginning of the reorganization and the sterilization of the soil, this extraordinary “machine” that is essential to the establishment of life on the surface. The illusion of mastery has driven us into the bottomless well of ignorance. Nowadays a farmer is unaware of his or her surroundings and the complexity of the systems that govern his or her land. Rather than working intelligently with the principles of nature, it continues to be enough for the farmer to dictate and kill. The Garden in Motion is a gardening method that favors the living over form. This does not mean that there is an absence of form, but rather that it emerges through gardening, over time, and it changes depending on what the gardener deems important to conserve or to remove. It is not completely *laissez-faire* but rather a series of

minor interventions, in such a way as to work as much as possible with—and as little as possible against—nature. The gardener works on this in an opposing economy of energy, avoiding destruction

under the pretext of “cleaning up”! When a plant begins to grow in the middle of a path, it is legitimate to ask the question of whether to modify its route rather than just removing it. All of the plants that settle spontaneously in a garden are worthy of consideration; there are no “weeds.” Formal work comes second then in my approach to space. Most plants choose their own place, they are travelers and wanderers

on the scale of the garden as on the scale of the planet—carried by winds, currents, the pelts of animals, birds, and the soles of feet.

The plants that we are most familiar with, which seem to have always been at our sides, were only introduced very recently. The oaks from druid culture have not been here for eternity for example; they came up from the Iberian penin

sula via stolen acorns that were discarded here and there by jays. The coconut, the largest seed in the world, floats. It has expanded its territory, carried along by various currents, but we don't know exactly where it first appeared. Planetary cross-fertilization is one of evolution's mecha

nisms. "Indigenous" and "invasive," are terms that have no meaning. These cultural considera

tions don't take into account the ecosystem as it has functioned since the appearance of life on Earth, regulated by movements and migrations. Once we take a step back in time and space, we understand that the term "invasive species" is overused. These rapidly developing beings

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settle as pioneers and their spectacular growth gives the impression that they are coloni

zing space, but the “environmental response” always finishes by reestablishing balance when it comes to the presence of different species.

It is what we call an emerging ecosystem. When the climate changes, as is currently the case for various reasons, it is normal that the geographi

cal distribution of species also changes. Plants that in the past couldn't develop in certain geographical zones now can, and *vice versa*.

Migrations, essential to survival, are part of the m

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From its origins, the garden has been a closed space where man cultivates that which he has brought back from elsewhere, that which he has sought out further and further afield accompa

nied by the progress of technology. The potato, the tomato, the zucchini, or the eggplant—that make up our daily diet—are exotic species. The planet also hosts a self-contained biodi

versity that represents our condition of sharing. It behaves like a giant washing machine that

recycles all of the elements, in such a way that the water that I am drinking has already been drunk by a number of other beings before it reaches me. This is why it is fundamental to ask oneself how to put the energy that has been taken out of the environment back into it, or how not to pollute the water irreversibly. It is an enormous management project and a political

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By taking the measure of spatial finitude, planetary cross-fertilization, and the omnipresence of man—who has an impact even where he is not to be found—I have come to the idea of the Planetary Garden. It supposes that each citizen of the planet is a gardener, including mankind in the system of Gaia, something that Lovelock did not necessarily have in mind.

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*So the gardener is no longer there to
“domesticate”, “tame”, “dictate”, or struggle*

with”, but rather to “accompany”, “drive”, and “manage” the living. He is not rejec

ted from the “ideal garden” but occupies its center. So why have you made the Île Derborence—a small hill in the center of the Henri-Matisse park in Lille—inaccessible?

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The Henri-Matisse park is situated on the edges of the fortifications of the old town, on a former industrial site. It can be accessed via the Roubaix gate, or from the TGV train station, for which the debris from the excavation work was stored on site. In this pile of rubble, there were Vauban bricks, probably from an ancient fortress. I really wanted to reuse this idea of the fortress to question what we have decided to

protect today by offering to conserve the pile of debris, allowing nature to establish itself on its summit. Abandoning land is like handing it over to a future forest. The initial idea consisted of accelerating a process of establishing a boreal forest that is the result of a planetary cross-fer

tilization—like a sample of a future climactic vegetation—but the lack of a budget for plan

ting finally led us to leave nature to develop at its own pace. Staging is a solid base for provi

ding support to a landscape created by nature's energy. The intention was not to prevent access but rather to make it into a centerpiece of the theme of the Third Landscape, on a pedagogi

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What I call a Third Landscape corresponds to a biodiversity reserve, a host territory for species that find themselves chased away from many other places. Edges of roadways, waste lands, railway embankments, urban or earthy gaps and crevasses, all of these parcels of land where man does not go, hosting a biodiver

sity much richer than can be found in fields, in well cared for “green spaces,” sprayed with phytosanitary products or even those of the Douglas forest, where no light penetrates. Once we have understood this, and become aware of our dependence on this diversity, we no longer look at wastelands in the same way. Instead of presenting them as a loss of power over space, an abandonment or neglect, we can on the contrary look at them as a rehabilitation of the space. I called these spaces Third Lands

capés in reference to the pamphlet by the Abbe Siéyès, who at the moment of the Revolution said: “What is this Third-Estate? — Everything —

What role has it played to date? — None.

What does it aspire to become? — Something.” These spaces, are everything, and our future probably depends on them. I would not say that the Third (estate) Landscape “aspires” to beco

me something, because it is not biodiversity which is threatened, but more-so the survival of mankind on this planet. Plants are autotrophic, they synthesize chlorophyll from the sun’s ener

gy, while man finds himself at the end of the food chain. Life came before us, it will continue on without us and plants will cope much better than we will. But it is interesting for us to look differently at these species for our own longe

vity. A wasteland can be a treasure.

To valorize the Third Landscape at the heart of

the Henri-Matisse park, we cast raw concrete walls—that look like cliff faces—around the small hill. They make it possible to signal the precious aspect of what it hosts at its summit.

The

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Claude

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the form of the Island of Antipode for the contours of this jewel, this pedestal, even if we have decided to call the one located in the

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Henri-Matisse park the “Île Derborence,” in reference to one of the only remaining prime

val forests in Europe, located at the top of an inaccessible peak in Switzerland. Of the eight hectares of the Henri-Matisse park, only the 2,500 m at the top of the knoll are governed by²

a total *laissez-faire*. The “manifesto” aspect of the project aims to raise awareness among the general public about the inaccuracy of associa

ting an abandoned space with a space that is degraded and degrading, but the project was little understood. It was dangerously close to being cancelled a number of times before it saw the light of day, and then it was slammed by the critics as a “useless” and “baffling” waste

land. Trees were planted in front of the walls, hiding the reason for the scenographic enhan

cement of the primeval forest, which is a stupid thing to do. Pedagogy, education, and aware

ness-raising are long-term processes that are
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Since then, I have often suggested that a managed space should be accompanied by an undeveloped adjoining space, left to its own devices, in such a way as to become a reservoir for hosting species that are deemed “auxiliary” for the gardener, species that help the gardener without asking for anything in return.

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to these delicate subjects, but it is a matter of a change in vision accompanying a profound cultural change, and this type of change in values always takes a long time to gain ground. We are truly ignorant when faced with the roles and capacities of fauna and flora, which bring with them a feeling of loss of power, even though the living does also work with and for us. Since the 1970s, scientists have brought to light a number of means of communica

tion that exist between plants, through scents, gaseous emissions, electrical and magnetic currents, and various types of waves. All of this is very complex and, for the time being, there is nothing in place that allows us to use this “natu

ral genius.” Gardeners have been aware of the existence of these forms of communication for many years. Their “non-scientific” experiences have allowed them to make associations and to draw conclusions, such as “the leek likes the strawberry,” which has been much derided, despite the fact that it is absolutely true.

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Rather than the Anthropocene, you speak of the “Stupidocene.” First we were igno

rant, then stupid, and we are now trying to be innovative. What sustainable vision of “progress” should we then give ourselves?

The Anthropocene, as the transformation of the planet due to the action of mankind, began for me with the sedentarization of humans, because, from the very first clearing that was created, the landscape has found itself modi

fied by man. This modification has gained momentum and force with population growth

and the increase of available means of action in the field. We have ended up feeling that we can control everything thanks to man's genius, machines, and products. Industrialization provi

des an idea of this vision of the world and in my opinion marks the beginning of the Stupidoce

ne. The rupture between man and his environ

ment does not then go back to the development of monotheism. When man represented himself in the image of God, when he broke with this relationship

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and respect that he had maintained with his surroundings so as to position himself “above” nature, he had not yet reached the skin of the Earth. The altering of the biosphere, though vital to the human species, began with progress made in chemistry, the development of destruc

tive products, and Taylorism.

The Stupidocene is the ecstasy of the illusion of mastery. In my own field, we transform lands

capas in a spectacular and very violent fashion, we fuse together, we sterilize, we waterproof, we wage war on life. Unlike war, the industry of the Stupidocene does not display a desire to kill, yet it does it anyway with a radical and insidious violence. The number of deaths that have occurred since the beginning of the use of chemical products in agriculture for example is

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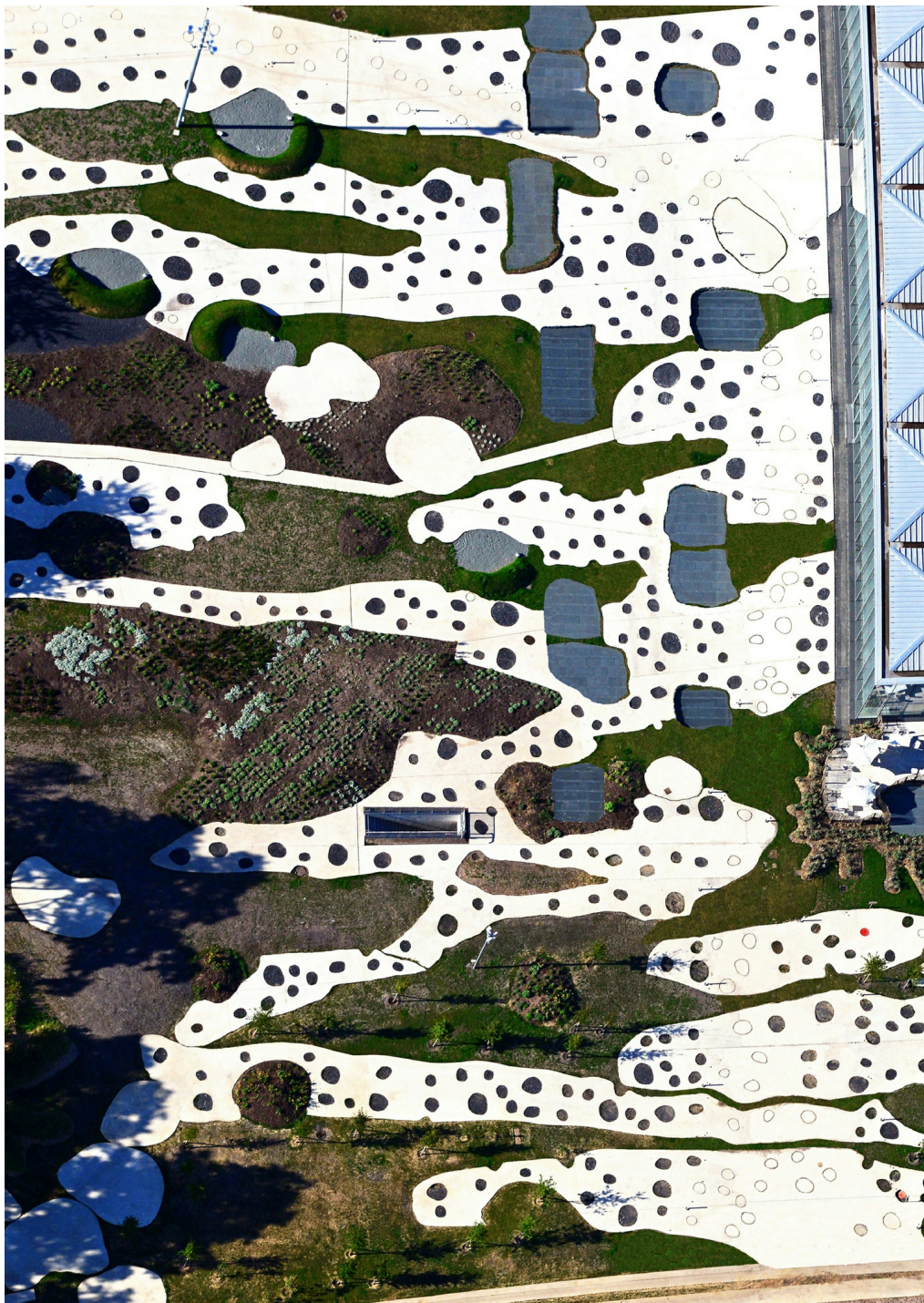
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In a finite space, with a limited biosphere, growth cannot be spatial in nature. We cannot continue to gnaw upon the skin of the Earth, to eradicate our food supplies, to build cities by taking over fertile lands. Trying to circumvent the problem by setting up vegetable gardens on rooftops is illusory at best. Growth must be turned toward knowledge and understanding. Everyone can be more intelligent, even though the intelligibility of the context is not neces

sarily a given. My understanding of progress does not correspond to this plunge into igno

rance with respect to the environment in which we live, but rather to a better understanding of

the complexity of the living that we are part of.
This intellectual and immaterial growth does
not require occupying the terrain.





Design de la biosphère

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*L'un de vos projets phares est le
jardin botanique de Bordeaux,
où vous magnifiez le sol, à la fois
vivant et inerte. Comment avez*

*vous procédé pour « la galerie
des milieux » ?*

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Cet équipement culturel incluait
la construction de bâtiments, de
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de l'établissement étant la

représentation de typologies de
paysages – culturels, spontanés,
exotiques, etc. Il s’agissait de
dessiner un jardin botanique en
quatre temps : un premier sur la

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la relation de l'homme à la plante

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dérivé...–, un second sur les
paysages singuliers des climats du
monde dans des serres, un bassin

à l'est, en relation à la Garonne, et enfin celle

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L'exercice le plus complexe était de représenter les paysages naturels du bassin aquitain sur deux hectares d'échelle, mais aussi de façon à éviter un véritable musée en plein air. Il n'était pas question d'établir une relation entre le public et l'objet observé, mais au contraire de provoquer, à l'esprit occidental, l'homme est toujours en

au-dessus – des systèmes, alors qu'il est un
comme les autres. J'ai donc abordé la ques
grand bassin aquitain en coupes verticales
l'ensemble de ce qui existe et non pas simp
en surface. Des mottes ont été recomposée
prélevés dans les milieux qu'ils représente

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projets : le jardin

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du Louvre Lens et
le Gateway Park à
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le public déambule. Il s'agit bien évidemment
au sens propre, à savoir d'objets figuratifs,
Les couches qui les composent, assemblée
proportionnellement réduites par rapport
dans le pays aquitain. Le but était de donner
le paysage de surface et le substrat, mais au
l'élément nourricier. Cette « galerie des m.
cabinets de curiosité du XVII

e

, fonctionne par miniaturisation, de
sorte que le cumul de tous ces jardins *hors-*
combinatoire de paysages en plein centre.
Le basculement des échelles fonctionne au
J'utilise depuis cette méthode, sous diffère
La miniaturisation permet le redéploiement
niveaux, et les réactions sont très instructives
avons extrait des blocs de paysage entiers
des reconstitutions. Plus le projet est ouvert
l'imaginaire s'invite subrepticement, quel

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Ce qui est intéressant, c'est que lorsque vous couches géologiques, vous donnez également un ordre chronologique. Quel est votre rapport au temps en tant qu'architecte ?

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Différentes familles de paysagistes s'opposent : de spontanéité, de « tout-venant », face au projet sur-dessiné. Dans ma pratique, le dessin intervient entre le projet et le programme. Il me semble primordial d'être extrêmement précisément pour que le paysage soit son œuvre de transfiguration et de transformation.

dans le dessin, en l'augmentant sans l'annuler. Je
commencer par émettre une hypothèse, mais les
facteurs restent imprévisibles. Celle-ci doit être
possible pour traverser les temporalités d'un monde
en transformation permanente. J'ai conçu le jardin
de Bordeaux comme une pièce extrêmement complexe
du jardinier et de la main « artificielle » sur les
arbustives et herbacées, est indispensable à l'écologie
grande échelle. Un jardin est comme un corps
pas entretenu puis est voué à disparaître. L'écologie

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*Vous êtes également lauréate, avec les arch.
Liu, du Gateway Park à Taïwan. Dans un cont
et la pollution poussent les habitants à se réf*

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Design de la biosphère

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*climatisés et à ne profiter de l'espace public
conçu un parc susceptible de «réhabiliter le
investit un certain nombre de paramètres – c
et la température – en invitant à utiliser différen
niveaux de confort offerts. Le vivant peut-il a
dans l'amélioration de l'ambiance et du con*

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Le végétal est un des paramètres de cette h
confort. Un élément ou une situation doivent
plusieurs fonctions et ne jamais servir qu'u
Philippe Rahm a conçu des installations de

de l'atmosphère : des brumisateurs, déshu
encore des réflecteurs. Nous avons traité la
70 hectares, ainsi que la qualité des sols et c
des eaux de pluies rejetées par les sols imp
250 ha couverts par le nouveau quartier en
Allen était un enjeu crucial, en particulier d
tropical humide où les moussons ont des im
environnements urbains. Comme la plupar
récemment dessinés, celui-ci a vocation à é
au cœur de la ville, de manière à contrôler l

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Le plus simple pour absorber l'eau est de créer des « bosses » afin de la capturer au plus près de la source. L'eau se déplace avant de s'infiltrer dans le sol, puis dans le filet, puis au torrent... Les creux accumuleront l'eau et ménagent des stations de fraîcheur. Il était prévu de déplacer les déblais hors du parc ; la vertu de ce projet est de préserver les ressources en place. Nous avons proposé de créer des reliefs avec des ouvrages qui introduisent des « couloirs » pouvant atteindre 15 m de haut. Ces reliefs sont reliés peu aux emprises surplombantes de la future gare, ce qui permet au mitoyen et de franchir les trafics qui croisent. Les topographies forment des « drapés », couverts de végétation sous lesquels il est possible de se réfugier. Le projet investit plusieurs paramètres : la topographie et les qualités de sol, mais aussi la température/hygrométrie et de la pollution. Les données ont été entre autres distribuées selon l'impact du quartier sur la température – en termes d'orientation – courants d'air – auxquels s'additionne la topographie dans lesquels l'eau s'accumule.

de pondérer la sensation de chaleur. Pour ce sont des
arbres aux très grosses feuilles et aux canopées denses
camphrier, apportant une ombre dense et fraîche.

Design de la biosphère

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le *Phellodendron amurense*, produisent du pollution sonore du trafic automobile, tandis que les trichomes – des feuilles et tiges de certaines espèces – *Paulownia x taiwaniana* accumule les particules de l'air. Une plante ne peut à proprement parler filtrer l'air, elle n'est qu'un vecteur de transit et de transformation d'une physionomie singulière. Les stipes des fougères, les racines aériennes partant des branches des arbres, de l'humidité ambiante, mais pour ne citer que les plus évidents, le vent et des aléas climatiques, aujourd'hui nous ne pouvons nous ajuster en milieu ouvert urbain est une vision d'une emprise climatisée close, où il est bien difficile de pondérer par l'épaisseur du trait du design. Enfin, la palette végétale de la strate arbustive, les topographiques, avec plus de 40 000 plants par hectare par phytoremédiation. Les typologies végétales sont à une diversité de paramètres et ne peuvent être traitées de manière solitaire et isolée. La strate arborée, les pieds – est en interface avec le design de l'architecture lithosphère. Celles-ci se complètent inévitablement avec des stations de fraîcheurs éloignées de la pollution.

étendues d'eaux. Des parcours aux vocations les unes aux autres. Les parcours les moins la petite enfance, aux familles et aux jeux. Les propices aux loisirs, aux rencontres, aux kids qui restent hors d'eau, même lorsque le paysage son emprise, accueillent les activités sportives.

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Votre travail de paysagiste vous amène ainsi à définir le substrat, l'eau, l'ensoleillement, voire même le végétal à proprement parler. D'une certaine manière, d'agencer ou de conduire le vivant que de manière nécessaires à son bon développement ?

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M O S B A C H

Les milieux fonctionnent par essence comme
lesquels il est impossible de remplir une tâche.
À Taichung en particulier, mais d'une manière
paysage et la technologie sont des leviers
que les installations « climatiques », comme
Rahm, aient été retirées du projet par le maître
en avons proposé d'autres, liées aux expériences
et aux douze sens selon les préceptes de l'école.
ville devrait les valoriser en tant qu'outils pour
établissements scolaires. La dichotomie entre
le « tout artificiel » relève d'une pensée binaire.
de la même manière que la ville ne peut être
Comme paysagiste, la relation de mon corps

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mon environnement domestique est essentiel de mon cerveau. C'est chimique, c'est physique, la nature, voir le vivant évoluer est une source d'inspiration. Le bassin du jardin botanique de Bordeaux est devenu un lac. Les hérons, les grenouilles, les poissons trouvent spontanément refuge, sans compter que cette emprise aquatique ne s'inscrit pas dans l'ordinaire. Je n'aurais jamais osé faire l'hypothèse d'un tel espace en plein centre-ville... Observer l'appropriation de l'espace par les gens s'amuser, libérer leur imagination, accepter des comportements dits « urbains »... est une manière d'effacer tous les tracassés affrontés lors du processus de création. Le potentiel d'un dessin réside dans cette capacité à accueillir des événements imprévus. Notre culture occidentale nous inculque un culte de la stabilité, qu'un individu ou un paysage change tous les jours. Il est incompréhensible que les jurys de concours continuent à remplir des tableaux avec des critères renvoyant à des standards qui évincent tout ce qui n'est pas pensable, tout ce qui est expérimental. Accepter l'idée des interconnexions, des associations

surprises, s'extraire de la pensée du contrôle serait un véritable progrès. Le plus grand succès du paysagiste puisse rendre est de révéler que ce n'est pas une utopie, mais il faut pour cela avoir le courage de travailler avec un commanditaire téméraire. Le dialogue entre « ville » et « parc », entre « artificiel » et « naturel », entre « dedans » et « dehors » est une recherche de conditions de vie optimales. L'architecture doit être considérée comme une séparation mais aussi une transition entre dedans et dehors. Elle doit être une interface très fine avec le paysage. SANAA, du musée du Louvre Lens, l'a bien compris. Dans la culture japonaise, le dedans et le dehors ne sont pas séparés comme en Occident. SANAA a adopté une approche en opposition à une architecture monumentale. Sa façade à reflets propose une incroyable transparence dans le paysage. Ne pas attacher d'importance à l'enveloppe pour ne considérer que l'expérience d'accéder, à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur, à un espace intellectuel et moral engagé. La manière dont les architectes et les paysagistes mutualisent des concepts pour concevoir de concert une partition me paraît ainsi essentielle.

entre minéral et végétal, inerte et vivant, ac
pas prévu d'avance, laisse une place à l'alé
porosités... C'est une des manières d'initie
dialogue ouvert entre architecture et paysa

How can we move beyond man's position of dominance over the city? How can the city be articulated so as to improve the city? How can we create a new landscape? The work of the landscaper Catherine Mosbach

through the recomposition of layers of landscape—collapsing the object being observed. She recreates environments in

ters including plants but also topography, hygrometry, soil, and so on, in a way as to counterbalance urban extremes and create islands of greenery, provide paths and spaces for sociability. Within this approach, the landscaper uses complementary levers. The landscaper's drawing must allow for a certain control. In a similar fashion, architecture can no longer be seen

loped—form and frontier—so as to provide refined interfaces and welcome transitions between the inside and the outside.

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*One of your flagship projects
is the botanical garden of
Bordeaux, where you magnify
the ground as an element that is both living
and inert. How did you work on the “galerie*

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This cultural facility included the construction of buildings, greenhouses, and offices, com

plete with a landscape architect as representa

tive. Its objective was to represent various types of landscapes—cultural, spontaneous, exotic landscapes, and so on. The idea was to design a botanical garden with four main scopes: the first one is the ethnobotanic s that is, the relation

between people and plants—as food, medicine derivative products, etc.; the second one revol

ves around the singular landscapes of the wor

ld's climates in greenhouses; the third is a pond on the east side of the park, which relates to the Garonne river; and finally, a space dedicated to the landscapes of the Aquitaine Basin.

The most challenging task was to represent the natural areas of the Aquitaine Basin on two hec

tares of land, due to the issue of scale, but also in a way that does not resort to museographic ter

minology. Distancing the public from the object under observation was out of the question; the public was to be included within it. In the Wes

tern view, humans are always placed outside of systems, or more often than not, above them, when we are in fact part of the landscape just as any other beings. For this reason, I approached the question of the landscapes of the immense

Aquitaine Basin in the form of vertical sections.

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not simply what can be seen at surface level. We
recreated mounds with materials collected from
the environments that they represent and then
allowed visitors to stroll among them. These are
of course representations in the literal sense

in other words, figurative objects, or images of
realities. The layers that make up the mounds, a
practical application of stratigraphic principles
are proportionally thinner than those that can be
found along the Aquitaine Basin. The objective
was to make visible the relation between the
surface landscape and the substrate, but also the

thickness of the nourishing factor. This *galerie des milieux* (gallery of milieus/environments) echoes the cabinets of curiosities of the nine

teenth century. In the same way, the aggregation of all these transplanted gardens that operate on a miniature scale provides a patchwork of lands

capas right in the city center.

The shift in scale exceeded our expectations. I have been using this method ever since, in different

forms depending on the projects. Miniaturization

makes it possible to redeploy imagination

at various scales, and the public's reactions are edifying: some people believe that we have extracted entire chunks of landscapes and do not get the fact that they are recomposed. The more open the project is to a temporal process, the more imagination surreptitiously weighs in,

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What is interesting is that you reveal the stratification of geological layers, and thus also lay bare the time that settled there.

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C A T H E R I N E M O S B A C H

Landscape planners of different creeds disagree about the idea of spontaneity, of all-comers, with regard to the scripted, or even over-designed, project. In my practice, design instates a dia

logue between the project and the program.

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design precisely in order to allow the temporal
dimension to fulfill its role in terms of transfigu

ration and transformation by interfering in the
design, augmenting it without annihilating it. We
have to begin with an assumption of some sort,
even though many parameters remain unpre

dictable. This hypothesis must therefore be as
precise as possible in order to navigate through
the timescales of a landscape that is intrinsical

ly undergoing perpetual change. I designed the
Bordeaux Botanical Garden as a highly scripted

piece. The action of the gardener and of the artificial hand on the tree, shrub, and herbaceous layers, is essential to create the impression of a large scale. A garden is like a body: it deteriorates if it isn't maintained properly and will eventually die off. The perception of its duration is primarily a cultural issue.

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You were also awarded the Taichung Gateway Park in Taiwan, along with the architects Philippe Rahm and Ricky Liu. In an environment where the subtropical climate and pollution drives local inhabitants to seek refuge in air-conditioned spaces and to only enjoy public spaces at night time, you designed a park that could “rehabilitate daytime.” To do so, the project considered a certain number of parameters—including

humidity levels, pollution, and the outside temperature—and invites users to use the space differently depending on the comfort levels achieved. Can living systems play an active part in improving urban atmosphere

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Plants are one of the parameters of urban comfort. An element or a situation must, in my opinion, have a variety of functions and never only serve one objective. Philippe Rahm de

signed devices that play with the atmosphere: mist blowers, dehumidifiers, and reflectors. We reworked the topography over 70 hectares, as well as the quality of the soil and the water. The stormwater runoff from the 250 hectares of im

pervious surfaces of Stan Allen's new district has to be managed, all the more so given the humid subtropical climate in which the monsoon has a major impact on urban areas. Like most recently designed urban parks, this one is intended to be a "sponge" in the very heart of the city, in order to mitigate flood risks.

The easiest way to soak up water is to create

mounds and troughs in order to capture the water as close as possible to where it falls. When rainwater does not rapidly soak into the soil, the raindrops rapidly go from trickle to torrent. The trough-like swales collect the runoff and act as retention basins; they also form cool spaces. We were required not to transfer any excavated material out of the park; the merit of the project was therefore to make the best use of the existing resources. We brought in macro and micro topographies with earthworks that introduce “hills” and “mountains” that are up to fifteen meters high. This topography will offer a welcome escape from the future skyline of the neighboring business district, which will loom large over the park, but also provide overpasses and underpasses to separate various traffic flows. Other macro topographies form “draperies,” up to two hectares in size, that offer refuge from the sun.

These areas provide a cool respite from the heat similar to that of a cathedral or a cave during the

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The project acts on a variety of parameters, ranging from temperature/humidity and pollu

tion to site topography and soil characteristics, which are put to use for rainwater management purposes.

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among other things, according to the impact of the skyline of the future business district on temperature—in terms of shadow effects and air flows—as well as the tree belt and the swales used for stormwater collection. All of this aims to mitigate heat stress. To do so, we have chosen trees with very large leaves and wide canopies, which provide dense, cool shade. Other trees, such as *Phellodendron amurense*, grow cork that mitigates the noise pollution of car traffic, while the downy trichomes of the leaves and stems of some species such as *Paulownia x taiwaniana* col-

lect air pollution particles. A plant cannot in itself reduce air humidity but acts as a vector of transition and transformation, in accordance with its par-

ticular physiognomy. The stipes of the tree fern

and the aerial roots of the fig trees soak in the ambient humidity but, if only for the local wind effects and climatic variations, which are now very numerous, any precise control in an open urban environment is a pipe dream; in contrast, this can be achieved in a closed air-conditioned space. In this case, the extremes are mitigated thanks to the crude outline of the design but not eliminated altogether. Lastly, the palette of the tree and shrub layers of the swales, which boast more than 40,000 plants, uses phytoremediation to treat the polluted surface waters.

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The types of plants are thus combined with a variety of parameters and cannot deliver a ser

vice in an isolated or solitary manner. The tree layer, made of roughly 12,000 plants, interfaces with the design of the atmosphere and that of the lithosphere. Inevitably, these two strata com

plement one another and introduce cool areas away from the sources of pollution as well as water bodies. Paths with different purposes connect these places to one another. The most mildly polluted paths are given over to young children, families, and games. The most heavily shaded paths are conducive to leisure activities encounters, and kiosks, and those that remain unflooded, even when 80 percent of the park is under water, accommodate athletic activities.

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Your work as a landscape architect therefore

*leads you to compose with the substrate,
water, sunlight, and even technology, as much
as you do with plants as such. In a way, is it
less a matter of arranging or conducting
living systems than of implementing the
conditions required for them to develop*

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Natural environments intrinsically operate as systems in which it is impossible to carry out a monospecific task. In Taichung in particular, and as a general rule, landscape and technology are complementary. Even though the “climatic” de-

vices, as Philippe Rahm calls them, have been removed from the project by the contracting authority, we suggested new installations linked to bodily experiences and to the twelve senses put forward by the precepts of Steiner’s theory of the senses. The city should be putting them to use as educational tools in schools. The spurious dichotomy of natural and artificial stems from a counterproductive binary approach, just as a city cannot be “fully mineral.” As a landscape architect, the way my body is enmeshed in the living world that surrounds me in my domestic environment is crucial for my brain to operate properly. It’s a chemical thing, something purely physical. Being in contact with nature, seeing li

ving systems develop over time is a source of
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The pond of the Bordeaux Botanical Garden, for example, literally became a lake. Herons, frogs, ducks, and fish spontaneously find a haven there, not to mention the people who swim there des

pite the fact that this water body isn't up to urban standards. I would never have dared to imagine a mountain lake right in the center of a city. Ob

serving the unexpected ways in which people

take ownership of spaces, the way they have fun, let their imagination run free, challenge the so-called prescribed “urban” behaviors, and so on comes as a huge reward that makes up for all the hassles I put up with during the project

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A design’s potential lies in its capacity to accommodate such unscripted events. Our Western culture indoctrinates us into a cult of stability even though individuals and landscapes change on a daily basis. The fact that review boards of architectural competitions continue filling out tables of ratings based on standards that exclude anything that cannot be scripted

in advance, as well as anything experimental or creative. Accepting the idea of interconnection, randomness, and happenstance, and abstrac

ting ourselves from the ideal of complete control would be a huge step forward. The greatest ser

vice that a landscape architect can offer is to reveal that this isn't a utopia, but to do so it is necessary to chance upon a bold sponsor.

The dialogue between city and park, between natural and artificial worlds, the inside and the outside, is a fertile ground for the emergence of optimal living conditions. Architecture must not be considered a separation anymore but a filter, a transition between the inside and the outside.

It benefits from providing a very fine interface with the landscape. SANAA, the architect of the Louvre Lens Museum, fully understood this.

In Japanese culture, the inside and the outside aren't opposed as they are in the West. SANAA took an extremely humble stance on the issue, one that is very much opposed to self-centered monumental architecture. Its reflective facade

causes the building to blend almost seamlessly in the landscape. Not giving any importance to the building as envelope and only considering what it gives access to, both on the inside and on the outside, is a strong moral and intellectual choice. The way architects and landscape desi

gners pool intertwined concepts together and perform in unison is critical. The mix of mineral elements and plants, inert substances and living systems, accommodates things that weren't ant

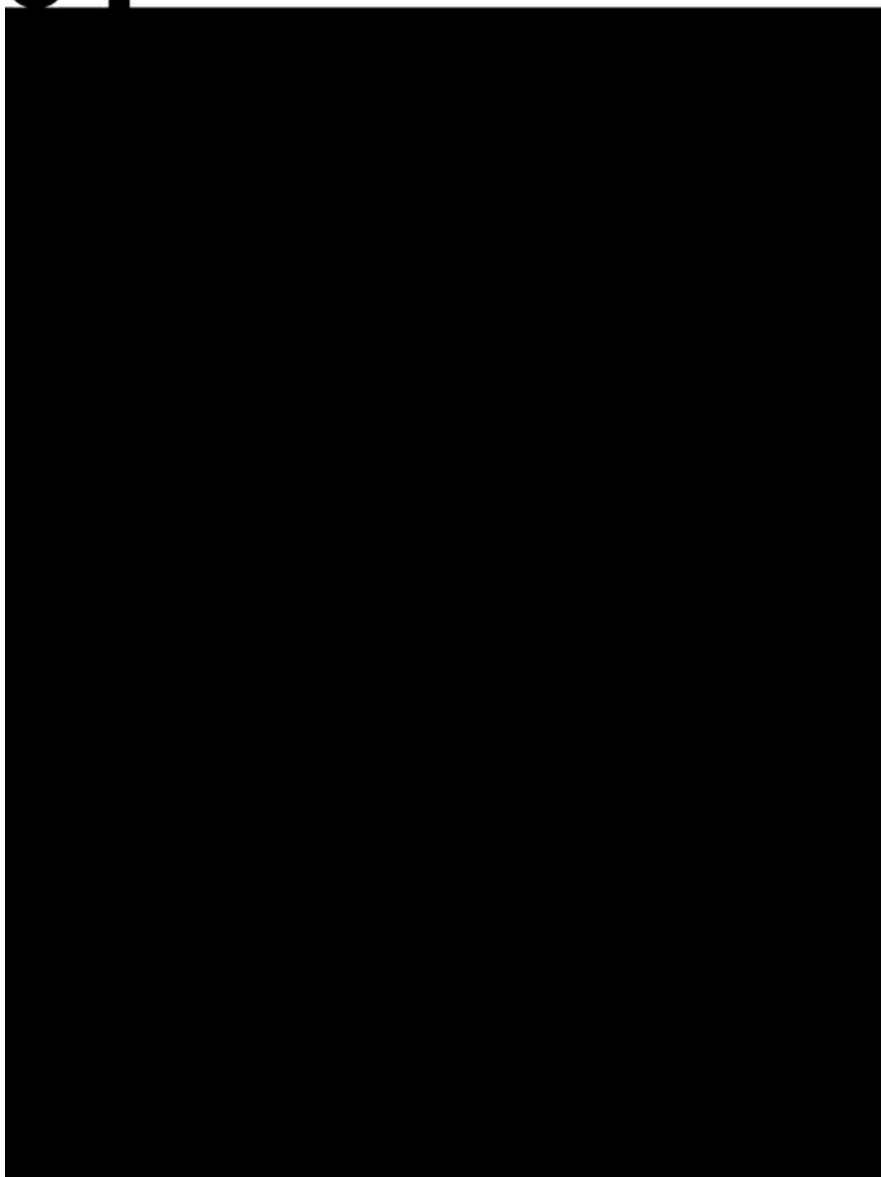
cipated, leaves room for randomness, provides porosities. This is one of the ways that a potential dialogue between architecture and landscapes can be ushered in.



branches + leaves

UNIQUE UNSEEN LOW EVENS

STREAM 02



Le paysage comme médiateur urbain

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Stream 04 approfondit le thème du vivant. Dans le contexte de l'Anthropocène, nous explorons de nouvelles formes d'interaction entre l'humanité, la technologie et la nature. Nous avons par exemple abordé la théorie de l'OOO avec les philosophes Graham Harman et Timothy Morton. Le paysage, en tant que discipline, semble également être un point de départ intéressant pour mener l'enquête, ses outils n'étant autres que les éléments naturels.

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Le paysage est en effet une discipline intéressante pour parler du vivant, en ce qu'elle constitue un cadre médiateur entre ce que nous définissons comme

« nature » – au sens de processus naturels

et la société. Le projet intellectuel du paysagiste consiste en quelque sorte à comprendre la dynamique qui s'établit entre nature, économie et société. Il intervient comme médiateur, des entités naturelles existantes – écologiques –, avec les opérations économiques, les besoins de la société qui y vit et travaille. Il est à la fois générateur et soutien de l'urbain, mais son rôle est double, telle la figure de Janus : il observe des processus urbains qui sont fondamentalement productifs, mais il s'efforce également de contrôler, à certaines forces du capitalisme, de façon à ne pas aller pas à la maximisation des rendements et du profit, mais à la culture, à la qualité de vie et, bien sûr, à l'équilibre.

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Au départ, le paysage – comme discipline – conditions de vie urbaine. Il étend désormais ensemble beaucoup plus vaste d'enjeux, c'est un faible pourcentage de la surface de la planète qui dépassent largement leur échelle. Nous ne pouvons continuer à concevoir des infrastructures nées de votre discours sur l'humain séparé de la nature. Nous avons établi des distinctions très nettes entre les espaces, du résidentiel, à la production ou au transport. Il nous faut désormais imaginer des espaces multiples. Le Ministère des Transports devra évoluer, puisque'avec la disparition progressive de la forêt, les autoroutes se transforment à terme en forêts. La question des espaces paysagers est vouée à s'accroître avec la portée des enjeux qu'ils aborderont.

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D'un point de vue théorique, sommes-nous prêts à l'exemple de repenser le non-vivant ? Ou de nous en servir mais comme un métabolisme ? Quelles idées

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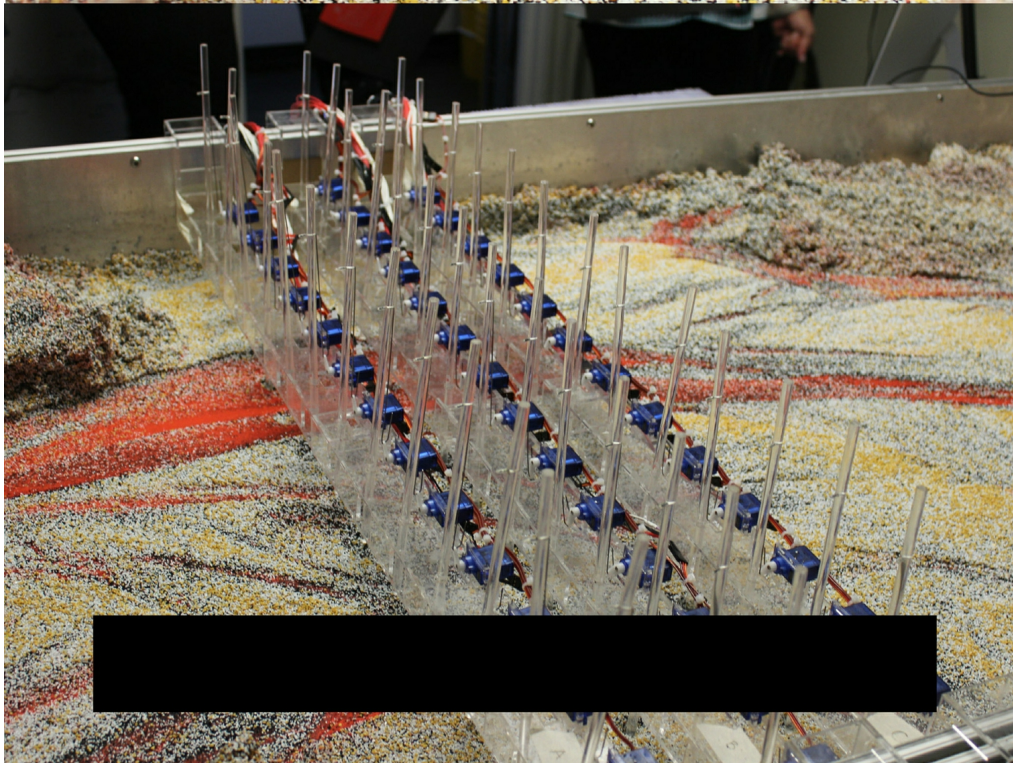
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Nous ressentons partout les effets du chang

les problèmes d'inondations, et pas seulement toutes les zones côtières au sens large sont. États-Unis s'est faite principalement le long adéquate. Ces changements s'observent é réagissent les espèces. L'érable à sucre – couleur dorée aux paysages de la Nouvelle affecté par les changements climatiques, Comment repenser les grandes plantation meurent ? La pruche, un conifère que l'on re Canada, pose un problème similaire, entra Malheureusement, je ne suis pas certaine q réagir, ni que notre réaction soit suffisamm de perturbations brutales et étendues.

À Boston, les citoyens se sont mobilisés pou aspect intéressant de l'Anthropocène : tout mesures qui s'imposent à titre individuel. M gouvernance, la signature d'accords au so internationales sont tout aussi nécessaires. entendus pour ne plus avoir recours aux flu climatisation, parce qu'ils sont responsables de serre. Ce type de coalitions doit continu de nombreuses initiatives populaires pour







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Quelles sont les options et stratégies les plus

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Nous abordons ces sujets dans l'ensemble Graduate School of Design. Nous explorons à l'alimentation, l'énergie, le climat ou les choses qui transcendent les frontières entre disciplines pour être envisagés. Travailler de manière à trouver le moyen le plus efficace de résoudre des problèmes de mettre en œuvre une pluralité de cadres. Cela concerne l'architecture, la planification urbaine. Nous explorons donc conjointement ces questions qui sont passionnantes. Et parce que nous adoptons une approche des studios de la Harvard Graduate School of Design d'imagination sur des sujets comme l'avenir de la façon de remplacer une forêt qui aurait disparu, ou encore la gestion de l'interface entre l'eau et la terre.

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Pour faire le lien avec l'alimentation, il y a la cuisine.

et notamment celle de l'agriculture urbaine, Paris. Quel est son avenir? Est-ce une simple la « classe créative » ou y a-t-il un véritable se

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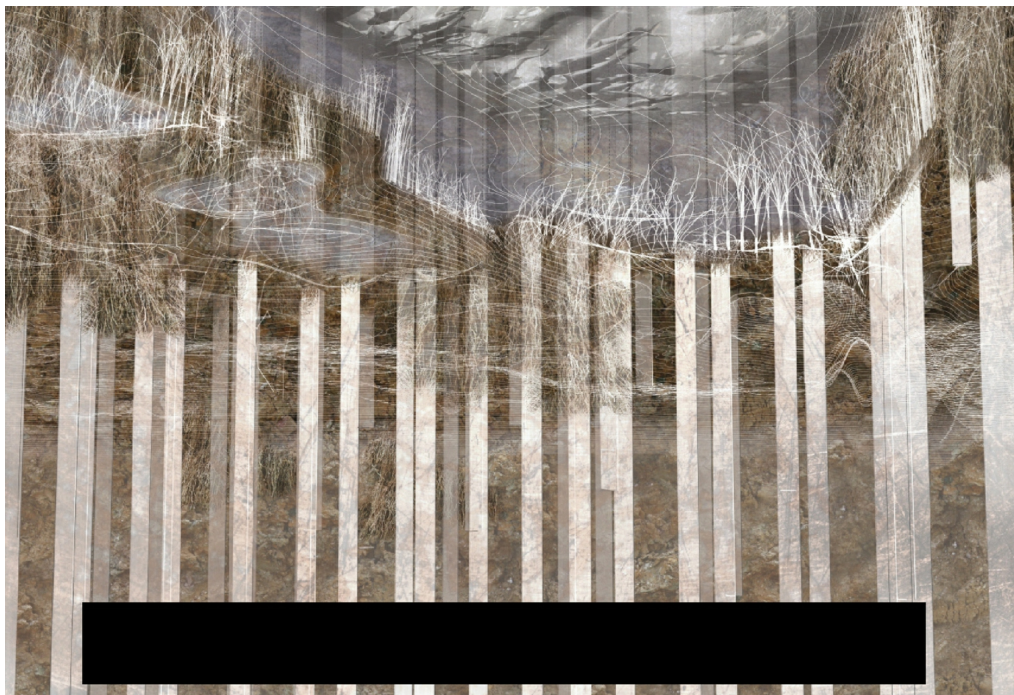
L'agriculture urbaine est porteuse d'avenir, une réflexion « créative » justement. Elle de d'échelle pour ne pas rester anecdotique, Le foncier y est très cher, ce qui pose la que ces parcelles d'agriculture urbaine, qui pe du plein sol. Il y a dans Boston des fermes ur demeureront probablement telles quelles cependant qu'une toute petite partie de la p Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) -

pour le maintien d'une agriculture paysanne bien développés aux États-Unis et constituent l'agriculture urbaine proprement dite. Ces jardins relient les consommateurs de la ville avec des fermes locales. Dans un système d'abonnement, on reçoit une fois par semaine une boîte de fruits et de légumes. Cela assure le maintien en agriculture et l'approvisionnement alimentaire de la ville. Dans certaines villes, New York par exemple, les jardins sont réservés aux personnes bénéficiant d'une assistance gouvernementale.

Il est important qu'elles aient également accès à une nourriture saine. C'est une question de santé publique, pour éviter l'augmentation d'obésité causée par un accès insuffisant en fruits et légumes.

Le paysage comme médiateur urbain

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Le problème est pluridimensionnel, et diffi-
les nombreuses initiatives locales, municip
amélioration de la situation. À l'époque col
était par exemple une terre majoritairemen
l'économie agricole a migré vers le Midwe
à la forêt, suivant le processus naturel prop
Certaines des fermes d'origine ont été prés
de lutter pour préserver un équilibre entre
Gaining Ground, une association qui gère u
paysage historique, est un bon exemple de
pour étendre la portée de l'agriculture loca
réservée aux sans-domiciles fixes et l'expl
dont des lycéens, pour qui les heures d'eng
l'obtention de leur diplôme. Ce projet a do
tout en œuvrant à la préservation du paysag
patrimoniale, en faveur des sans-domiciles
alimentation correcte convergent. Voilà l'a
pour étendre les applications et la pertinence
Au-delà des espaces, des infrastructures o
doivent elles-mêmes s'extraire de la pensé
service de parcs ne peut se contenter de la
façon que les commissions de protection d

s'intéresser qu'aux considérations immédiates des institutions engagées dans la vie de ces missions. Cela semble plus facile à dire qu'à fait possible. Il y a des exemples remarquables de petites fermes. Les toitures ont également travaillé avec l'architecture particulière des États-Unis.

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Vous avez beaucoup travaillé sur cette question.

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En effet. Des fermes et des prairies dans les

opérateurs fonciers commencent également des installations photovoltaïques, ce qui est une chose est potentiellement profitable et que dépendants du coût du pétrole. Je pense que Les toits devront probablement être exploités. Il existe déjà des fermes sur de très grands York, mais il me semble essentiel de leur donner une dimension sociale. Il faut les concevoir comme une nouvelle forme de production à visée sociale, comme des espaces de production à visée sociale, mouvement populaire, car il est essentiel que nous soyons conscients de la provenance de la nourriture. Le lait n'est pas anonyme, il a une origine, il a été produit quelque part, dans des conditions particulières, mais plus personne n'en a conscience. L'homme à son environnement est devenue

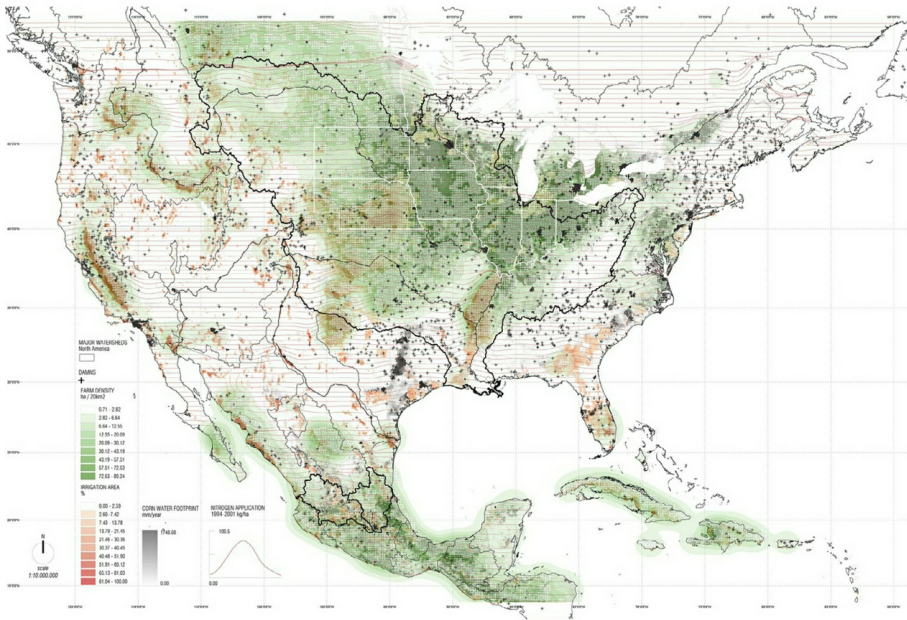
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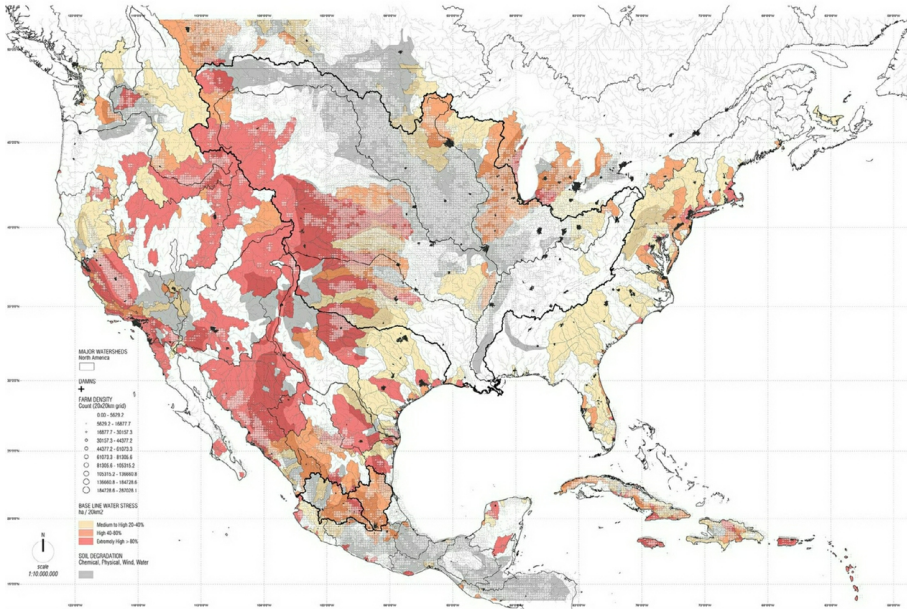
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Le paysage comme médiateur urbain

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TRACING AGRICULTURAL EXTENTS
Geographic expanses of croplands, areas of irrigation, and intensity of nitrogen application



TRACING AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS
Mapping agricultural density with stressed watersheds and degraded soils



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With the return of the living to the urban space, the landscape becomes a framework for architecture. Landscaper Anita Berrizbeitia explores the relationship between nature, the economy, and society. From simple agriculture to the landscape extends its role to the redefinition of a city through urban agriculture. To create complex spaces that contain multiple interactions and address social issues requires an interdisciplinary approach, the establishment of a network, the multiplication of citizens' initiatives. Urban agriculture must not remain anecdotic. It must shape spaces of production but also of consumption, and the environment through an increased awareness of where we live.

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Stream 04 is investigating the theme of the living. In the context of the Anthropocene, we are exploring new kinds of interactions between humanity, technology and nature. We have for example spoken with philosophers Graham Harman and Timothy Morton about object-oriented ontology (OOO) theory. Landscaping appears to be another very interesting point of investigation, because you are working with

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Landscape architecture is the kind of mediating

framework between what we know as “nature” (in the sense of natural processes), and society. In fact, we could say the intellectual project of landscape architecture is to understand this dynamic between nature, the economy, and so

ciety. Landscape architecture comes in to give organization and to mediate between existing natural processes (hydrological structures, en

vironmental structures, ecology), the economic operations that define the city, and of course, the needs of the society that lives and works there.

Landscape is both generative of and supportive of urbanization and of capitalism, but it's like Janus. It has always had this double-gaze: one that wants to support urban processes which are fundamentally instrumental and productive, and another gaze which tells us, “Let's give shape and direction to those forces of capitalism so that they don't get out of hand, so that it's not just about maximization of efficiencies and profit, but also about sustaining culture, quality of hu

man life, and now, of course, the climate and the health of the ecosystem.”

Landscape architecture, which started very much as a discipline to improve living condi

tions in cities, is now expanding to address a greater set of challenges because although ci

ties cover a very small percentage of the earth’s surface, they cause the most damage. For ins

tance, we cannot continue to have mono-func

tional infrastructures. This speaks to your point,

“We have been separating humans from nature

Well, the city has also, through zonification, had very clear divisions between recreation, com

merce, housing, production, and infrastructure

We cannot do that anymore. We have to make everything in the city that relates to landscape do two or three things. For example, the Trans

portation Department has to get into forestry

because highways might need to—as cars di

sappear—become forests. In the future, we will have more typologies of landscape space, more places that landscapes can inhabit, and more challenges that can be addressed through

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From a theoretical point of view, are we close to a conceptual breakthrough, like rethinking the non-living? Like looking at the building, no longer as just an object, but

*as a metabolism? Are there ideas like that
developing in response to anthropocentric*

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Landscape as Urban Mediator

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We are feeling the effects of climate change everywhere. You see it in the fact that we have flooding problems everywhere, not just at the edges of the water. The world's coastlines are all at risk. The United States, for instance, has urbanized primarily along the coastlines wi

thout proper planning. But we can also see it in the way that species are reacting. Take the example of the sugar maple. Everything that's beautiful and in color right now in New England is probably a sugar maple. This tree has formed

a part of the local economy and with climate change, it has become very brittle. So how do you begin to rethink big forest plantations when the species are dying? We have a similar pro

blem with hemlock. A native evergreen that grows from Canada down to the mid-Atlantic, it is also dying and causing massive deforesta

tion. I'm not sure that we are responding quickly enough, or that we even know what to do, but there is rapid, large-scale change everywhere. In Boston, the conversation has been, "Indivi

duals have to respond on their own because the government can't respond soon enough." This is the interesting thing about the Anthropocene

everybody has to respond and act accordingly at a personal level. We're going to need top

down agreements and international coalitions. Last week, many countries agreed that they're no longer going to use the refrigerant fluid that

is used in air-conditioning around the world, as it is one of the major causes of greenhouse gases. These kinds of very top-down solutions are going to have to be implemented very quickly.

But just as necessary will be grassroots initiatives that will need to be extensive and deal with how we live differently on a day-to-day basis.

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In your research, what are the options and strategies that you find most effective?

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We deal with these topics across all departments at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). Food and food security is another challenge we explore, for example, across all programs. Questions of energy, food, climate, waste, water etc., are all issues that not only transcend disciplinary boundaries, but also require multiple instruments in order to address them. I find that the most effective way of working is in an interdisciplinary way,

because complex problems require multiple
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approaches

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They're a part of architecture, and of planning, and of landscape architecture—so we are all thinking about this together. This is why it's ex

citing to be here at the moment. And because we have an experimental approach at the GSD design studios, we are inventive with questions such as, "Where will the forest of the future be? How do you replace a forest that has died be

cause of climate-related issues? How do you think about the interface between the city and water? How do you live in that city?"

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One aspect that is connecting the food debate you mentioned with nature in the city is the question of urban farming, an area in which we have seen a huge rise in Paris. What is the future for urban farming? Is this just a trend, like a fashion, for a

creative class? Or is there a real sense of moving toward local food production?

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There's a future there, but we need to think creatively in order to make it happen. First, ur

ban farming needs to be scaled up if it's going to be affordable, certainly in this country. Ur

ban land is very expensive, so where is urban farming going to happen? It's not necessarily on the ground. Here in Boston, we have urban farms that are very old and historic and those will probably stay. But they only feed a very

small fragment of the population. An excellent alternative we have developed in the United States are CSAs—Community-Supported Agri

culture—programs. With CSAs, if you are in any city that has farms on the outskirts you can buy a share in this farm. Once a week you receive your share of fruits and vegetables. It keeps the farm in business and it supplies people with

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In some cities, like New York, they have ex

panded that program so that people supported by the government through food stamp pro

grams will have access to healthy food as well. Of course, this is an issue of health, too, because we have a great crisis with obesity due to the lack of access to fresh food on a regular basis. This is a multidimensional problem that is intractable at every level. But we have been able—either through local, municipal, or state wide initiatives—to start to move in the right direction. For instance, New England, in colonial times, was an agricultural landscape and some of those historic farms have been preserved. When the agricultural economy went to the Midwest, everything returned to forest because a temperate zone always tends to forest.

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So, in New England, we're constantly battling to find a balance between forest and agriculture. One case of different institutions working together to expand the reach of local agriculture is an organization called Gaining Ground, which runs an organic farm in a historic landscape. The products of this farm go to feed the homeless, and the labor to cultivate, harvest, and distribute the produce comes from volunteers, many of them students from the local high school that need the hours in order to graduate. So here you have an educational requirement, a social need, and a preservation issue—the homeless and access to food with historic preservation—converging. This is the future: thinking transversally to expand the applica

tions and relevance of our organizations.
It's not only spaces, infrastructures, and buildings that cannot be mono-functional any

more—our institutions also need to become porous; meaning, the Parks Department can't just be about recreation. Or the historic com

missions cannot just be about preservation. All of the institutions that support the existence of all of these different landscapes in our society need to expand their mission. It's not easy to do, but I think it's going to happen, there are remarkable examples of what small farms can do. Roofs also have great potential, especially in this country where we have big-box stores.

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You have been working a lot on this subject

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Absolutely. Farms inside skyscrapers, hayfield inside skyscrapers... Some of the big-box re

tailers are also starting to lease their roofs for photovoltaic energy, and this is fantastic. That means that there is some profit and we're also not totally dependent on the cost of fuel. I think that's going to happen with agriculture. These roofs need to be designed in the future to do this. In Brooklyn, New York, there are farms on top of very large roofs. I think we need to make them social, to make them the new parks and spaces of production to educate people. Be

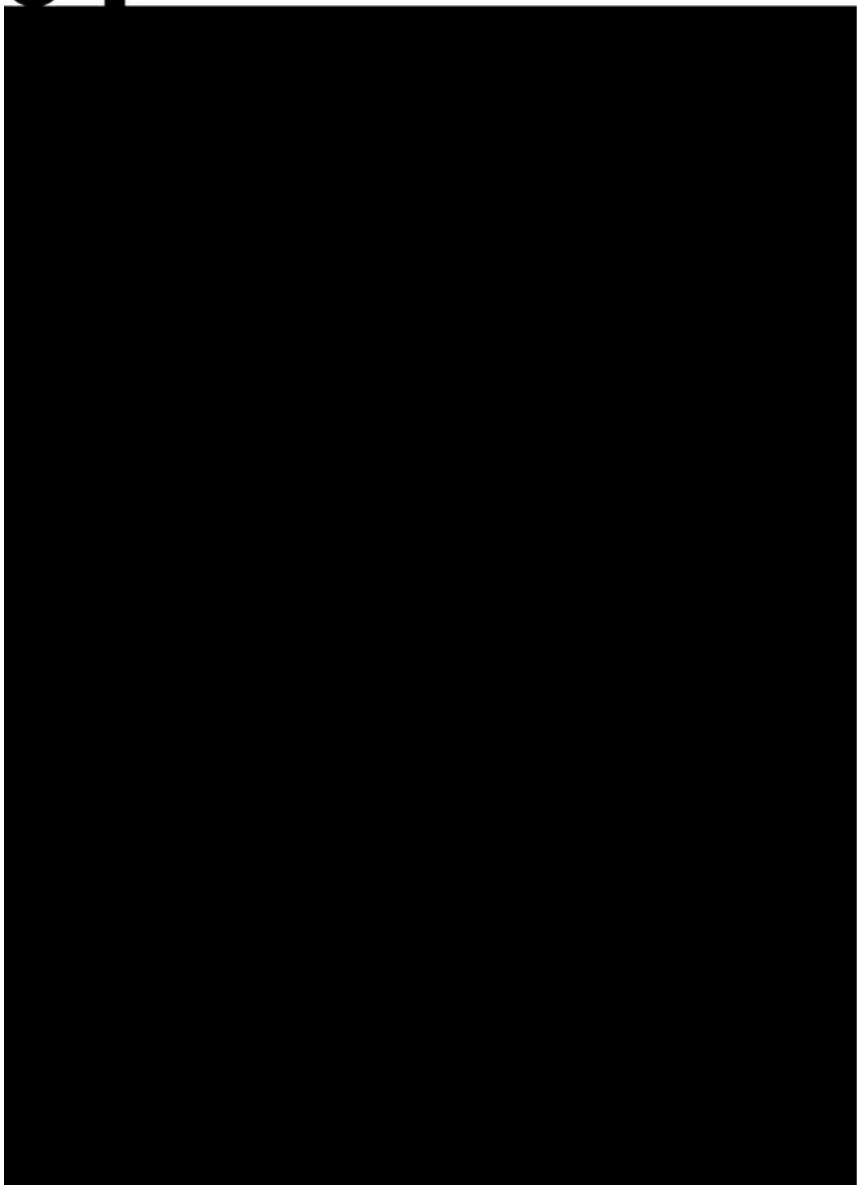
cause when I say this needs to be a grassroots movement, people need to understand where food comes from—that is not an abstraction. The problem is that the human-environment relationship is very abstract so nobody unders

tands where milk comes from or everything that
needs to happen for milk to get to your table.



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STREAM 02



Psychanalyse urbaine: de la performance à l'action

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*Pourriez-vous nous présenter l'ANPU, l'Agence
Nationale de Psychanalyse Urbaine ?*

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L'histoire du projet remonte au
cadeau d'une amie, il y a vingt ans
de cela. C'était à l'origine un cadeau
empoisonné : son mari lui avait offert
un divan de psychanalyse de Le
Corbusier pour lui suggérer de se

faire soigner, ce qu'elle avait mal pris. Peu après, ayant divorcé, elle s'était débarrassée du divan en me l'offrant à son tour. Comme j'étais à l'époque avide de performances en tous genres, j'ai rapidement eu l'idée d'organiser des séances publiques de psychanalyse pour un prix dérisoire, notamment durant la braderie de Lille. Je me souviens que ça mettait en colère les psychanalystes qui passaient par là ; ils ne comprenaient pas qu'on puisse s'amuser à singer leur discours d'organiser un spectacle qui s'appelait *La loi de psychanalyse*, au cours de laquelle s'affrontaient un philosophe assez fantasque et un psychanalyste lacanien. Puis j'ai commencé à expérimenter le personnage au travers de visites guidées un peu loufoques dans le cadre des journées du patrimoine. C'est avec la rencontre avec Exyzt, un des fondateurs en 2007 l'agence. Ces apprentis architectes pour les villes pouvait s'avérer pertinent. J'ai alors p

avec qui je travaillais depuis des années da

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à structurer une agence et solliciter des org
démarche. Nous avons ensuite contacté Ch
sa triple compétence d'architecte, de mett
2008, nous avons étoffé l'équipe de l'ANPU
petite centaine de villes et de territoires.

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Lorsque j'ai rencontré l'ANPU, il n'y avait su
style théâtral. Le reste était à construire, à in
la première étape était d'apprendre à Laur
architectural. Après les toutes premières r
science poétique était en train de naître sou
Schneider – qui a joué le rôle d'entremetteur

retrouvais dans la position de l'accoucheur
construire une méthodologie jusque-là in
que nous avons fait de la recherche fondam

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Recherche, oui. Vision croisée de deux arti
équipe surtout. L'ANPU, ce n'est pas seuler
Vincent Lorin, Hélène Dattler, Camille Fau
Lola Duval, Gonzague Lacombe, Maud Le F
leur manière à l'élaboration de cette métho
de manière empirique en équipe.

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*À la croisée de la performance et du diagnostic
«coucher les villes sur le divan». Est-ce à dire
organisme vivant, doté d'un subconscient ?*

Avec ces dix années d'expérience, je connais la ville exactement comme on sent en un clin d'œil, quel qu'un que l'on rencontre pour la première fois. Une ville vivante, elle émet un *beat*, une pulsation rythmique, elle fait belle ou pas, ses habitants l'aiment ou la détestent, ou elle peut être en plein stress ; la ville – comme un être – a des signes qui montrent à quel point elle est vivante ou morte. La tâche du psychanalyste urbain consiste à rendre ouverts, le corps et l'esprit disponibles pour l'écouter, à ce territoire afin de le comprendre et d'intervenir.

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Le postulat de considérer les territoires comme des personnes, de personnifier le sujet de discussion avec nous, nous se détendent et acceptent de parler avec les autres, de se décrispés sur un discours technique. C'est au contraire que n'importe quel citoyen est autorisé à participer, ainsi aux habitants de se réapproprier une ville, d'écarter la caste d'ultra-spécialistes autoproclamés d'experts, qui manipulent un langage dont le seul objet

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« non-sachants ». La psychanalyse urbaine
qu'une science poétique proposant une gr
ludique de nos territoires.

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Que de clichés ! Caste contre caste... Nous
en forme de *punch line* finissent par appauv

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Pouvez-vous nous parler de l'imaginaire urb
« villes invisibles » ?

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Si vous pensez à l'ouvrage d'Italo Calvino et dire que l'imaginaire urbain est comparatif. L'imaginaire des peuples semble s'être attiré est en crise et qu'elle n'arrive pas à se projeter par crainte de disparaître, mais aussi parce s'inventer un projet collectif alternatif, faut profonde. Si vous comparez l'imaginaire ur-

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siècle, ou même des années 1970, c'est le jour que les habitants ou les experts que nous re suffisamment flamboyant pour nous proposer élaborés, susceptibles de guérir les névro-

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Les villes se régénèrent en permanence sur
se constitue couche après couche par superposition.
Quand on regarde au travers de ces calques, on a l'impression
révéler une ville que personne n'a pensée. C'est comme si
ça l'inconscient de la ville. En revanche, ça se fait de façon
consciemment sur son évolution, et je ne suis pas sûr que
constat de Laurent. La nostalgie des 70's apparaît dans cette
génération porte en elle une force créatrice qui ne s'arrête
change. J'ai l'habitude de dire que je suis né dans une époque
que j'ai grandi sous les chocs pétroliers, que j'ai connu le
chômage en perspective, que j'ai découvert la violence
que la télévision a nourri mes angoisses. En

nostalgique de la folle créativité des années
changé, et au bout de ces dix ans de psycha
les bonnes idées que l'on nous a soufflées –
que ça – se concrétisent aujourd'hui, qu'ell
villes de certaines névroses.

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Le téléphone sonne désormais surtout pour
concrètes de fabrique de la ville. On ne nous
nous demande d'agir. Je commence même
étonnantes, nous invitant à mettre sur le div
le pneu, la science ou encore la montée des
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Pourriez-vous nous détailler votre protocole

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Pour recueillir la parole des habitants, on m
qui consistent à installer plusieurs dizaines
la ville, généralement lors du marché. On f

à qui l'on explique notre démarche et qui est
aux couleurs de l'ANPU pour interroger les
chinois. Les personnes interrogées sont invitées
pour un entretien individuel, où il leur est demandé
fruit ou à un légume, à un animal, un titre de
questions, qui ont pour effet de désarçonner
le chemin de la poésie, réveillant le sentiment
chacun éprouve plus ou moins ouvertement
transforment souvent en conversations, avec
la proposition de dessiner la ville. Après dix minutes
durant lesquelles on interroge entre cinq et dix
l'équipe des bénévoles pour recueillir les impressions
en faire un rapport circonstancié. Une autre méthode
habitants consiste à partir en *dérive* avec une dizaine
habillés d'une blouse. Les gens essayent spontanément
là, ainsi accoutrés, entraînant des conversations
de mieux cerner la personnalité de la ville à travers
rencontrés de manière totalement aléatoire dans
les cafés du coin, qui sont souvent de hauts lieux

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Concrètement, comment procédez-vous pour l'ordonnance ? Comment s'opère ensuite la mise en œuvre de la ville » ?

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La période de macération – de digestion – de réflexion sur place et la restitution de nos travaux n'est pas une théorie pertinente, je relis mes notes, j'

et celles qu'a sélectionnées Charles Altorff
internet, puis j'élabore une carte mentale d
les lignes de force de la personnalité de la v
d'analyse à Charles Altorffer, qui l'enrichit

Psychanalyse urbaine:de la performance à l'action

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Si la ville était un fruit?
Si la ville était un animal?
Si la ville était une musique?
Si la ville était une couleur?
Si la ville avait un trait de caractère dominant ?
Si la ville avait un âge?
Si la ville était un défaut?
Si la ville était le titre d'un film ?
Si la ville était une artiste?
Si la ville avait des ennemis ?
Si la ville était un proverbe?
Si la ville était un moyen de transport?

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If the city was a fruit?

If the city was an animal?

If the city was a music?

If the city was a color?

If the city was a personality trait?

If the city had an age?

If the city had a flaw?

If the city was a movie title?

If the city was an artist?

If the city had enemies?

If the city was a proverb?

If the city was a means of transport?

What would they be?

«La première mission de la psychanalyse urbaine est de faire basculer les habitants de la ville patiente dans l'hyperpoésie.»
James Lawson. Contribution à la grande histoire de la Psychanalyse Urbaine. Trad. Marie-Laure Cazin, p°109.

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“The primary mission of urban psychoanalysis is to drive the
inhabitants of the patient city into hyper-poetry.” James Lawson.
Contribution to the great history of Urban Psychoanalysis. Trad.

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un long travail d'échange entre nous, qui a permis de valider nos préconisations que nous proposons aux habitants. Pour la mise en pratique, notre ambition réelle n'est jamais qu'un geste artistique permettant d'ouvrir leur territoire – et son histoire – de manière nouvelle, aussi d'inviter le public à se projeter dans les scénarios thérapeutiques urbains inspirés de ce qui nous entoure : les ressources fossiles, la montée des eaux, l'absence de bons emplois rémunérés et autres réjouissances. Nous espérons à changer enfin de comportement, à être différents. La plupart de nos propositions thérapeutiques ne sont que tout simplement parce que notre travail reste très théorique qui est sans doute trop éloignée de la réalité, sans aucune quelconque influence sur elle. Cela étant, nous passons plus de temps dans des projets participatifs qui peuvent être beaucoup plus concrets, ce qui fait évoluer

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La grande évolution est que de plus en plus l'ANPU pour aller au-delà de la performance devient un outil pour agir directement sur la raison que le pôle « exécutif » de l'ANPU est le nom d'ALUE (Atelier Local d'Urbanisme dans un cycle de recherche appliquée, et je science poétique peut apporter quelque chose. Nous avons porté durant dix ans des projets à l'échelle à l'émergence de nouvelles idées pour les téléphériques urbains, d'agriculture urbaine urbaines, de recyclage des autoroutes, de contre l'étalement urbain trouvent un écho contemporaines. La « bulle artistique » est un plus, notamment parce qu'elle est destinée à une activité pourrait rester au sein de l'ANPU, et Service des Publics Avertis. Enfin, pour convaincre vraiment l'ensemble des publics, je verrai

FEE (Fédération de l'Éducation des Élites),
mieux comprendre les démarches artistiques

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L'ANPU est en pleine mutation, vous l'avez
l'enseigne ANPU, le pôle ALUE et le pôle « l'
permettre de prendre à bras-le-corps l'ave

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Parmi vos multiples expériences urbaines, e

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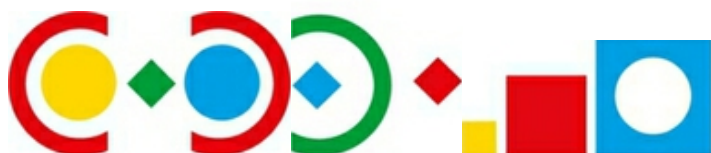
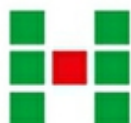
Psychanalyse urbaine: de la performance à l'action

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LES PÉPITES DU QUARTIER

Babelville a été identifiée, nommée et révélée lors de la psychanalyse urbaine de la rue de la Fontaine-au-Roi en 2016-17. Cette carte aux trésors de Babelville a pour but d'expliquer autant que possible les marquages présents sur l'ensemble du quartier. Ces marquages signalent les endroits d'où émergent depuis les différentes couches de l'inconscient territorial toutes les richesses de Babelville.





La psychanalyse urbaine de la rue de la Fontaine au Roi s’inscrit d
le budget participatif 2014 et de la mission Politique de la ville. AM

*The urban psychoanalysis of the rue de la Fontaine au Roi forms part of
participative budget 2014 and the Politique de la ville mission. AMO: p*

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Je retiendrais surtout des cas extrêmes de violence urbaine en parlant, comme Marseille, Hénin-Beaumont, etc. Ce sont des villes attachantes, à l'histoire fascinante. Mais l'on finit toujours par détecter un fort potentiel d'angoisse imaginaire urbain plus présent que dans les villes de la région. Généralement l'impression de s'ennuyer pousse à un sentiment de tendresse mâtinée d'effroi. Cette violence psychanalysée avec beaucoup de difficulté est celle d'une névrose franco-algérienne qui est loin d'être aussi vivement que la conférence de restitution n'a pu le faire de façon à contribuer à l'amélioration des conditions de vie pathogène. Notre grand regret est de n'avoir pu aller à Beyrouth, malgré un début d'enquête préliminaire, à mettre en place, mais j'espère que quelque

pencher sur le cas de Jérusalem...

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Je suis tombé amoureux de Saint-Nazaire e

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Hénin-Beaumont, je ne vous dirai pas pour

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*Les habitants représentent la matière brute de
résider dans la co-élaboration et co-construction
public, institutionnel et informel, groupement*

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Les habitants ont rarement le recul nécessaire
pertinente sur leurs villes. Ils ne font guère
et ont fâcheusement tendance à être dans la
une ville était un libre-service devant répondre
habitants. Ils se comportent généralement
considèrent la ville comme une bonne à tout

moindres caprices. Heureusement que les
brute de notre travail, sinon on aurait vite se
s'abat aujourd'hui sur la société.

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La posture de l'artiste qui se prétend seul d
signature – de la créativité et de l'hyper-po
dernier. L'artiste du XXI

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siècle est actif dans la citoyenneté, et non p
simple observateur ou critique.

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La seule question à se poser lorsque le télé
est-il volontaire ? » Il arrive qu'on nous solli
temps, parce qu'avec les « opérations diva
participatif. Je m'interroge donc sur la faço
lâcher prise, de s'engager dans le process

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Dans le cadre de projets participatifs, il faut surmonter la première barrière d'aigreur citoyenne et cultiver beaucoup de patience et de pédagogie, ne pas laisser les citoyens des bulles individualistes qui se referment, mais par beaucoup de pédagogie et une forte présence sur un terrain associatif qui est souvent hostile à l'arrivée des pseudo-experts que nous sommes sur le terrain. Ce qui connaît beaucoup mieux est souvent menacé et tenu en tenaille par des opérateurs avides de résultats, par une administration pointilleuse, incapable d'écouter. On peut se faire qu'en improvisant avec les habitants. Pour bien ces projets de co-construction, il faut être humble, se faire militant et oublier la posture du bouffon de notre discipline. Ces projets participatifs

à opérer une mutation en profondeur pour
constitueront la deuxième phase de notre p

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Après un an de travail dans le cadre du projet
du budget participatif 2014 dans le 11

e
arrondissement, j'ai plutôt constaté
que nous suscitons de la bonne humeur. Par
associatives, administratives ou autres se s
en récit de leur territoire et ont du coup acc
final. Je ne crois pas du tout à la théorie voul
cons». Sans tomber dans l'angélisme toute
des difficultés liées à la notion de démocrati

pléonasme, nous sommes face à une utopie
main aux habitants pour la fabrique de la vi
un hyper contrôle par les institutions. C'est
envisage de bouger un peu les lignes, petit
urbaine se doit aujourd'hui de faire école, f
nouvel objet artistique ayant contribué au c
monde culturel, isolé dans sa tour d'ivoire,

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Nous avons parfois du mal à faire basculer l
mais quand ils y vont, que de cadeaux ! De p
La problématique de la ville est parfois pos
débriefing des opérations divan avec les p

c'est souvent joyeux, avec des réponses in
la méfiance, mais ne ressens pas d'aigreur

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Faced with the acultural approach and functionalist universal smart cities, we have seen the return of works that deal with the urban environment. Laurent Petit has initiated a multidisciplinary agency, Urbaine, adding urban and architectural skills to his artistic practice. His protocol of restitution of residents' voices allows the living of the urban imaginations at work, revealing a personality, a relationship, a participative movement, the agency's artistic and therapeutic

performance to become a tool for action on the territory. This is a way of fabricating the city.

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Can you tell us about the ANPU?

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The project goes back twenty years ago to a gift from a friend. It originally was a poisoned gift: her husband had given her a Le Corbusier psychoanalyst's couch to suggest that she be treated. She didn't take kindly to it. Soon after, the now divorced friend got rid of the couch by giving it to me. Since I was very keen on all kinds of performances at the time, I soon thought of organizing public psychoanalysis sessions for a nominal fee, notably during the Lille Braderie.

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react with anger to this; they would find it hard
to understand why we would mock their profes

sion. I then had the idea to hold a show that
was called *La Finale du championnat de France
de psychanalyse* [The French Psychoanalysis
Championship Finals], with a face-off between
a rather whimsical Jungian psychoanalyst and a
Lacanian psychoanalyst and inveterate punster

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the urban psychoanalyst via some pretty crazy guided tours that were staged during the Euro

pean Heritage Days for instance.

The agency was created in 2007 following an encounter with Exyzt, which is one of the very first architectural collectives. These architect apprentices were convinced that psychoana

lyzing cities could prove relevant. I then asked Fabienne Quéméneur, with whom I had been working for years on another project, to help me put together an agency and reach out to cultu

ral organizations that might be interested in this approach. We then contacted Charles Altorffer to supplement the team with his skills as an archi

tect, a stage director, and a photographer. Since 2008, we have gradually expanded ANPU's team and psychoanalyzed a little under a hundred cities and urban areas.

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When I met with ANPU, there was nothing more than a pitch and a theatric style on the table. The rest still needed to be constructed and invented

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teach Laurent the basics of the architectural

vocabulary. After the very first rehearsals, I felt that a poetical science was coming into being before my very eyes. Thanks to Pier Schneider, who acted as a matchmaker between ANPU and me, I found myself in the position of a “midwife.” We set out to develop a method that didn’t exist at that point. I sometimes have the impression that we were conducting primary research during these ten years.

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Research, indeed. The confrontation of the contrasting perspectives of two artists, but above all we acted as a team. ANPU isn’t only

an “artist” and his “midwife.” Vincent Lorin, Hélène Dattler, Camille Faucherre, Clémence Jost, Dagmar Dudinsky, Lola Duval, Gonzague Lacombe, Maud Le Floch, Laëtitia Sovrano. They all contributed in their own way to the develop

ment of this methodology; the poetical science was empirically constructed as a team.

STREAM

At the confluence between an artistic performance and an urban diagnosis, your protocol consists in “having cities lie down

ANPUs are a collage

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Urban Psychoanalysis:from Performance to Action

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*on a couch.” Does that mean that you think
of cities as living organisms, endowed with a*

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With these ten years of experience, I am star

ting to *feel* the condition of cities exactly in the same way as we can feel at a glance the psychic state of someone we meet for the first time.

Indeed, cities are living things: they produce beats, rhythmic pulses of their own; they know how to make themselves pretty or they do not; their inhabitants like them or they don't; they are permeated with happy vibes or are in a situation of extreme stress; cities—and urban areas—send signals that show to what extent they are alive, undergoing great suffering, or half dead. The urban psychoanalyst's task then consists in having their chakras wide open, with their mind and spirit available to *offer themsel*

ves to the city that is being analyzed, to *offer themselves* to this territory in order to unders

tand it and to devise remedies.

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The premise of considering territories as living things helps our correspondents personify the conversation topic. This allows them to relax and to come forward with their affect rather than cling tensely to some technical discourse. It is also a way of pointing out that any city dwel

ler has the right to talk about their city. What we are offering residents is a possibility to reclaim a discipline that has been appropriated by the caste of

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architects and urban planners—who manipu

late language with the sole objective of exclu

ding “non-knowers.” Urban psychoanalysis is

ultimately just a poetical science that proposes
an alternative, playful framework of interpreta
tion of our urban territories.

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What a bunch of *clichés*! Pitting caste against
caste. We have moved on from that, and using
punchlines as shortcuts eventually leads to

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*Can you tell us about the urban imagination
and the importance of “invisible cities”?*

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If you are thinking about Italo Calvino's book when you are referring to *Invisible cities*, then it is fair to say that the urban imagination is very poor in comparison, if not non-existent. People's imaginary world appears to have withered, probably because society is in crisis and unable to project itself into the future. Probably also because society is afraid it will disappear, but also because it is not in a position to devise some alternative collective project for itself, which may be due to the lack of thorough questioning. If you were to compare the present-day urban imagination with that of the mid-nineteenth century or even of the 1970s, they are like night and day. The residents or experts we get to meet seldom have a flam

boyant enough imagination to suggest elabo

rate therapy projects that could possibly heal

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Cities

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self-renewing.

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urban body is formed by a series of layers.

Looking through these layers, shapes that have the potential of revealing a city that no one has thought of suddenly come into sight. That is the subconscious of the city. However, each genera-

tion can consciously intervene on its develop-

ment and I completely disagree with Laurent's observation. The nostalgia of the 1970s belongs to fifty-year-olds. Each generation carries a creative force within it; only the context changes.

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that I grew up during the oil crisis, that I went
to school with the prospect of unemployment,
that I discovered sex as the AIDS epidemic was
unfolding, and that television fueled my anxie

ties. As a typical forty-year-old, I am never

theless nostalgic of the insane creativity of the
1980s. Context has changed of course, and after

these ten years of urban psychoanalysis I find
that the good ideas that were given to us—we
don't invent that many—are now materializing,
that they are starting to cure cities of certain

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The calls we get now are primarily aimed at soliciting ANPU's assistance on concrete issues regarding the fabrication of the city. We aren't asked to make speeches anymore but rather to act. I have even started to receive increasingly astonishing proposals, inviting us to bring to the couch topics as diverse as mosquitoes, tires, science, or rising water levels. Little by little, the city has ceased to be our only object of study.

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Can you tell us what your protocol is for

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In order to collect residents' voices, we orga

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“couch
operations,”

which

consist

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placing several dozen deckchairs somewhere
in the city with a lot of foot traffic, typically on
a market day. We use a dozen volunteers to
whom we explain our approach and who then
don white coats in the livery of ANPU to inter

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view passersby with a Chinese Questionnaire of sorts. The respondents are invited to sit in a deckchair for a one-on-one interview where they are asked to compare their city to a fruit or vegetable, to an animal, a movie title, and so on—all in all, a dozen questions that have the effect of unsettling the residents and leading them down the path of poetry, awakening the feeling of fondness and tenderness that we all more or less overtly feel for our city. These questions often become conversations, and the inquiry then ends with the respondents being asked to draw the city. After two hours on site, during which we get to interview between fifty and one hundred people, we bring together the team of volunteers, collect the most interesting answers, and use those to draw up a detailed

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Another method we use for collecting resi

dents' voices is through *drift* with one or more members of the agency, dressed in a white coat. People spontaneously try to know what we are doing there, dressed like that, leading to series of conversations that help us to get a better grasp of the personality of the city through the words of these residents whom we have met completely at random. We also try to work in local cafés, which are often hotspots of urban

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Concretely, how do you go about “diges

ting” this into a functional specification or ordinance? How is this put into practice to cure the “ills of the city?”

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The maceration, or digestion period occur

ring between our *in situ* investigation and the presentation of our works does not exceed three months. To construe a relevant theory, I mull over my notes, look through our photographic records and the images selected by Charles Altorffer, do some internet searches, and then prepare a mental map of all these elements in order to identify patterns of the city's persona

lity. I then submit this early analysis to Charles Altorffer, who expands it with his own thoughts on the matter. This is followed by a lengthy exchange between us, eventually leading up to the final diagnosis and recommendations for the residents of the urban territory being analyzed. We have humble aspirations as far as practical applications are concerned. Urban psychoana

lysis is merely an artistic gesture that enables residents to rediscover their territory—and its history—in an unrestrained and fun way. We also try to invite the public to be more forward

thinking and come up with urban therapeutic projects that are inspired by what lies ahead with the depletion of fossil fuels, rising water levels, the collapse of the public service, the end of wage employment, and other joyful pros

pects that will no doubt finally cause people to change behavior and go back to being resourceful again. For the time being, most of our therapeutic propositions have not resulted in any practical follow-up, simply because our work remains firmly rooted in an artistic bubble that is probably too distant from reality to hope to exert any sort of influence over it. That being said, lately we have been involved in partici

patory projects that allow us to imagine much more concrete urban projects, thus bringing

about significant changes in the way we work.

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The key change is that an increasing number of sponsors are asking ANPU to go beyond dramatization. Psychoanalysis is becoming an instrument for direct action on geographical territories. This is why an “executive” division of ANPU is currently being formed: the Atelier Local d’Urbanisme Enchanteur (ALUE, Local Workshop for Enchanting Urbanism). We are shifting toward a cycle of applied research, and I am convinced

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contribute in its own way to the making of the city. We have developed many paper-based projects over the past ten years, taking part at our own level in the emergence of new ideas for cities. Our projects of urban cable cars, urban agriculture, urban energy farms, the recycling of highways, densification, and the fight against urban sprawl have wound up in certain contem

porary creations. The “artistic bubble” is a sanctuary I am not interested in anymore, partly because it is intended for an audience of insi

ders. This activity could nevertheless remain within the ANPU; we could create a new depart

ment, the Service des Publics Avertis (SPA,

Service for Informed Audiences). Finally, to complete the system and really reach the whole target audience, I'd be very much in favor of creating a Fédération de l'Éducation des Élites (FEE, Federation for the Education of the Elites) in order to help policy-makers better unders

tand the artistic endeavors that are grounded in

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ANPU is undergoing major change, as you have probably understood. The figure of the triangle between the ANPU brand, the ALUE division, and the “*la ? (question) sur le divan*” [the? (ques

tion) on the couch] division will enable us to get to grips with the world’s future from a number of d

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Urban Psychoanalysis: from Performance to Action

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*Among your many urban experiences, both
in France and abroad, which ones proved*

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The extreme situations of cities that are *completely messed up*, psychically-speaking, such as Marseille, Hénin-Beaumont, Charleroi, Vierzon and Decazeville particularly stand out. These are endearing cities, with a strong and often dramatic history, but where we always end up uncovering a strong potential for blossoming as well as an urban imagination that is much more present than in healthy cities, which generally seem fairly flat. I have tender feelings, though tinged with dread, for the city of Algiers; we had to plunge into the heart of a Franco-Algerian neurosis that is far from being healed and therefore psychoanalyzed the city with great difficulty.

ty. I deeply regret that the feedback conference wasn't more widely disseminated, which could have contributed to improving things in these highly pathogenic grounds. Much to our regret, we didn't get to finish the urban psychoanalysis of Beirut in spite of a rather promising start. All these projects take a lot of time to be set up but

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Hénin-Beaumont, I won't say why.

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Residents represent the raw material of your work. Do you see the future as being in the co-elaboration and the co-construction of urban projects, between the public and the private sector, informal and institutional contexts, organizations and individuals?

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Residents rarely have the necessary distance to express a relevant opinion on their city.

They do little more than repeat the clichés of the media and have an annoying tendency to spout complaints and invectives, as if cities were some kind of self-service that has to meet all the demands of its inhabitants. They gene

rally behave as eternal teenagers that consider the city as some sort of servant that has to cater to their every whim. Thank goodness residents are not the raw material of our work; we would have quickly been caught up the populist wave that is now descending on society.

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The stance of the artist that claims to be the
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through his signature is so last century. The
artist of the twenty-first century is an active
citizen and not simply an observer or a critic.
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The only question we have to ask ourselves when the phone rings is: “Is the sponsor a willing participant?” We are sometimes contac

ted because we are in the zeitgeist, because with the “couch operations” we have a brand image that is linked to participatory processes.

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sponsor will agree to let go of things and take part in the process without asking us to come up with a new postcard.

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In participatory projects, we must succeed in overcoming the first obstacle of the bitterness of citizens and the pervasive mediocrity by deploying a great deal of patience and peda

gogy, if only to remove citizens from their indi

vidualistic bubbles, which are increasingly tightening up. To do so, a lot of pedagogy and

a strong presence in the field are needed, in close cooperation with civil society organizations, which are often hostile to our approach. Parachuting us pseudo-experts on a territory that these organizations know much better than we do is often poorly perceived, especially given that we are often caught between operators that crave results that go down well with the population and an overbearing bureaucracy that is incapable of understanding that such work can only be carried out by improvising with residents. In short, in order to carry out these co-construction projects, it is necessary to be both cunning and generous; we have to become activists and to leave behind our self-appointed role as jesters that has long been the focus of our discipline. These participatory projects will necessarily force the ANPU to undergo profound changes in order to better

address the demands that will form the second phase of our project.

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After nearly one year of work on the *Bienvenue à Babelville* [*Welcome to Babelville*] project, which originated in the 2014 participatory budget of the 11th arrondissement of Paris, I instead found that we inspired good spirits. Partners, residents, civil society organizations, public institutions, and others still feasted on the narrative that we wove from their territory and then gladly received the final marking.

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koo land however, because I am well aware of
the challenges concerning the notion of parti

cipatory democracy. Beyond the pleonasm, we
are dealing with a utopia that aspires to devolve
power regarding the making of the city to its
residents, while at the same time retaining
institutional “hyper-control.” In all humility, the
ALUE is considering gradually shifting the lines

a bit. Urban psychoanalysis must now set an example; otherwise it will remain a new artistic object that will have contributed to the deepe

ning of the divide between the cultural scene, which is isolated in its ivory tower, and the real

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We sometimes find it difficult to propel people

into the abstract and poetry, but when they do, what a boon! What treasures! Pictures that leave us speechless! Key issues are often raised in a few strokes. When we do the debriefing of the couch operations with our locally-en

gaged budding psychoanalysts, we often get to enjoy some cheerful moments, with unex

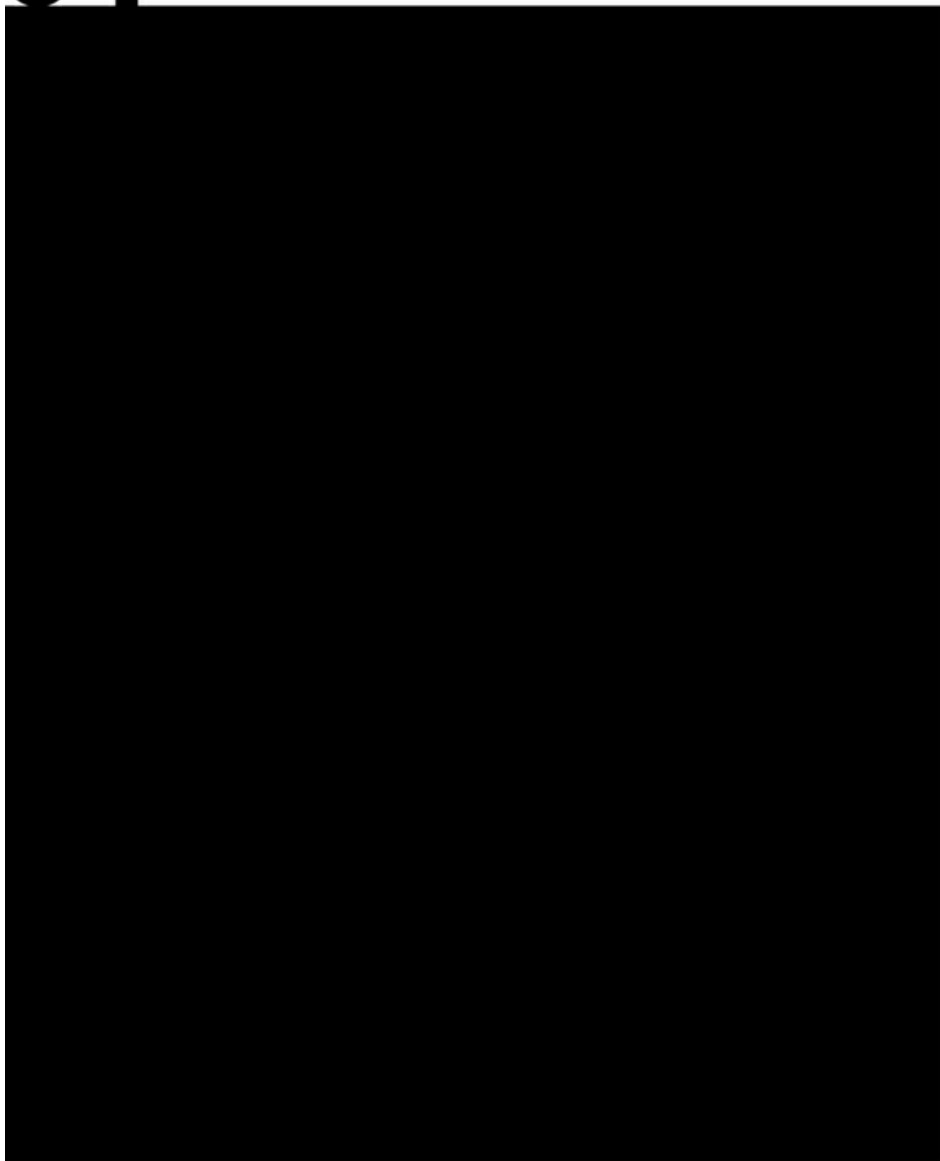
pected answers. I sometimes perceive anxie

ties and mistrust, but I do not sense any kind of bitterness or pervasive mediocrity from

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STREAM 04



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T A B U L A R A S A

Avec le temps, le débat

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se conjuguent pour démanteler
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établi de la révolution industrielle
aux Trente Glorieuses. La scène

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architectes pour qui ce démantèlement app
et la praxis de l'architecture. Les uns revisi
d'autres étudient des alternatives à la ville
théorie architecturale du processus. Ces a
interne. Ses acteurs peuvent diverger sur l
mais ils s'accordent sur le fait qu'un cycle h

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Cette scène reste très minoritaire, surtout c
« développé ». L'hypothèse que les grande
concernent l'architecture laisse sceptique
milieux de l'histoire et de la théorie, qui res
dans le sillon post-fonctionnaliste. La pense
ne peut se comparer, selon eux, au surgisse

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*Apprendre va au-delà de simplement acquérir
ou transmettre des informations ou
des idées existantes, c'est plutôt le fait*

*de concevoir de manière collective un monde
où il fait bon vivre.*

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La Conception radicante: temps, besoins, expérimentation

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Mouvement Moderne, rupture radicale et f
instances actuelles : enseignement, histor
désaccord ne porte pas sur les faits – perso
y a transition énergétique –, mais sur leur a
scène écologiste, ce ne sont pas – de la cris
1974 à la crise systémique de 2008 – de simp
perturbant le cours du Progrès, mais une ce
Elle sépare un long cycle industriel qui tran
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Pour les tenants du post-Fonctionnalisme, n
industriel productiviste, ces crises sont d'a
trouveront solution par évolution des systè
architecturaux. Elles n'entament ni les para
moderne, fondé sur le contrôle du monde, c

divergence révèle un conflit politique et th
clivages les plus visibles – le débat sur l'én
ses enjeux économiques –, il porte sur les m
production de l'espace. Une de ses clés, da

Architecture, est la relation au Temps.
Les architectes contemporains ne se prêter
plus agents de cette *perfection* radicale que
modernistes pensaient voir émerger en co
vitesse et table rase. Ils cherchent plutôt à i
les conditions indispensables pour la mise
d'*améliorations* appropriée, à déclencher
progressif dont les habitants sont les vérita
puisqu'ils en définissent à la fois le contenu
rythme. Le temps constitue la ressource pr

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S O U R C E I L L I M I T É E D U T E M P S

La ressource illimitée du Temps peut approcher sur la reconsidération des processus longs de l'habitat et des villes. En économie productive, le temps coûte cher – gagner du temps... La rapidité envahit l'économie de l'architecture. La *tabula rasa*, d'ailleurs, autant sinon plus qu'un nettoyage. Raser, c'est supprimer les contextes et leur histoire, aplanir les moraines de l'histoire, de la géographie, qui gênent le projet. C'est ramener ce projet à une feuille blanche, d'un écran. C'est aussi et surtout un frottement avec les habitants.

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Mais si, par un renversement caractéristique de l'écologiste, on cesse de subordonner le produit au processus final, si on considère que ce produit est au service du processus en fonction des ressources disponibles et des besoins, c'est la qualité du processus et son enrichissement qui prévalent, priment le design du produit. Le temps n'est plus un coût mais une ressource aux qualités nombreuses : il est disponible partout, bon marché, plastique, adaptable. La réintégration du temps rend possible une approche expérimentalement réformatrice qui ne consiste plus en une théorie qui s'ouvre – le projet comme processus – mais comme processus d'amendement des milieux et de leur durée. Cette approche probatoire à long terme est la plus moderne. Elle postule que le construire implique le temps du penser, expérimenter et faire, que le temps de l'exécution finale de l'objet. Et même peut-être pas un objet fini mais un moment collectif de co-conception et de co-construction, une époque à laquelle l'homme façonne et refaçonne, de façon progressive, son environnement et milieu, sous l'injonction complexe de l'écologie et l'expérience, du temps sédimentaire des villes.

géographie et des climats...

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Cet usage différent du temps ouvre aussi un espace politique, radicante. On sait que la pression du temps est l'ennemie de la démocratie. On peut songer que si l'architecture s'éloigne du temps politique et radical qui l'instrumente pour se rapprocher du temps ordinaire et explorer le paradigme neuf – et pourtant

de la responsabilité civique de l'architecte

3

La conception radicante s'inscrit dans une approche qui prend en compte le lieu et des besoins de ses habitants pour proposer un cadre de développement architectural et urbain, durable et collective. Nous nous installons sur le lieu pour observer et commençons par mener une analyse historique et typologique pour le restituer dans son contexte environnemental. Il s'agit de l'analyse « classique » que les architectes sont censés être formés. Nous menons cette analyse conjointement avec les habitants et les équipes de groupes de recherche pluridisciplinaires c

**pilliers du développement durable, à savoir
social, le culturel, et, bien sûr, le pilier écol**

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La Conception radicale: temps, besoins, expérimentation

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« La biographie d'une
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Aldo Rossi, « *The
Analogue City* », dans

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Ces groupes de recherche mettent à profit de la conception participative, organisant et engageant un dialogue avec les habitants encore en procédant à des évaluations SWOT des forces, faiblesses, opportunités et menaces au lieu. Les résultats sont documentés sous forme de cartographies inclusives ou thématiques, f

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L'approche radicante vise la co-crédation et « par et avec les habitants » des projets nccs repensant les environnements et les espaces existants de manidre à encourager le dcvloppement de circuits d'conomie circulaire et à catalyser le dcvloppement personnel et de l'émancipation. Le temps est en effet le meilleur véhicule de décisions collectives. Qu'il s'agisse de relever attentivement les besoins, d'élaborer des projets qui leur répondent, le temps est la matière première des démarches radicantes – humbles au sens où elles ne prétendent pas régler radicalement les problèmes. Ces méthodes d'auto-développement se n

aujourd'hui de par le monde : en Occident, s'opposer au post-Fonctionnalisme autoritaire ou des Villes, comme dans les pays émergents le dessein Moderne a sombré, léguant un chaos où les sociétés doivent amender elles-mêmes.

L'analyse du site et de son environnement, en scène la spécificité de chaque situation

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usagers et leurs usages, d'expérimenter la forme et architecturale comme catalyseur social, avec les habitants et nous-mêmes – les architectes – approfondi pour l'élaboration d'un programme à travers une co-conception et une co-construction naturellement du temps. Mais il y a aussi des incertitudes inestimables qui en nécessitent probablement la curiosité. Apprendre à partir de l'existant

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de ses symboles et de ses analogies, de ses

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mettre l'identité du lieu, les besoins et les aspirations de notre ego de créateur, mais aussi revendiquer

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La Conception radicante: temps, besoins, expérimentation

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Atteindre la plus haute qualité de conception par l'expérimentation continue et par une méthode, pas une nouvelle approche. Il s'agit même de notre profession, car « les choses que nous pouvons nous puissions les faire, s'apprennent en le

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laboratoires intégrant conception et construction actuellement, ainsi que des programmes de travail à toutes les échelles de la conception au design urbain. Ces programmes se concentrent sur la construction utilisant des matériaux renouvelables, le bois, la pierre etc. ou sur des bâtiments à énergie préfabriquée ou les technologies de transport de travailler de manière communautaire pour des bâtiments auto-construits, parfois d'aboutir à la réalisation de concepts d'ingénierie en

Cette nouvelle approche nécessaire, systématiquement basée sur des investissements attendus de ressources de temps, de besoins d'expérimentations, et dont les résultats doivent nécessairement être au service de la société, survient cinquante ans après les pédagogies de l'apprentissage par la production expérimentale en Illinois, à Berkeley ou à Venise, et presque

siècle après la révolution encore inégalée de la méthode d'enseignement de la conception du Bauhaus, la méthode émancipée et pionnière de Walter Gropius qui consistait à mélanger traditions, expertises, aspirations issues de l'artisanat, de l'industrie et du commerce. Le travail expérimental du Bauhaus, organisé autour d'un cursus long et de sessions d'échange utilisant les techniques discursives de l'*open-work*, devait permettre le développement

processus de conception « évolutifs, reproductibles propres à leur temps ».

Alors que les besoins massifs de l'industrie
avaient amené la conception des objets pro
industrielle à éclipser les premières tentat
l'architecture et la conception urbaine par
du contexte, Gropius retourna à sa posture
lorsque, fraîchement arrivé à Harvard, il co
projet d'architecture à l'étranger : « La fusio
l'approche contemporaine de conception
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La Conception radicale: temps, besoins, expérimentation

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et psychologique. Adaptée à son contexte, construction légère, remplie par la lumière, rapide à construire, économique et en tout vitales de ses occupants. »

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Conformément aux thèses développées avec le sociologue Franz Müller-Lyer pendant leur séjour à l'Allemagne nazie, Gropius avançait que tous les futurs devaient être préparés à « l'âge du nouveau mode de vie » de simplicité, de mobilité, d'indépendance et d'émancipation ». Notons qu'il avait prévu le « nomadisme » dès le milieu des années 1930, près de trois quarts de siècle avant que Douglas
n'écrive *Du village à la ville : Comment les m*

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Mais que représente la « conception expérimentale » s'agit de trouver les outils, matériaux, techniques aux besoins précédemment analysés. Cela implique une responsabilité totale dans l'identification des questions importantes : la solution *right* numérique et la nostalgie romantique passent.

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Albert Schweitzer expliquait que donner d

n'était pas la composante majeure de l'enseignement mais « sa seule composante ». Au-delà d'une approche pédagogique, l'exemple devien pour la conception. Les étudiants construisent des propositions de projet à l'échelle 1 et développent leurs conceptions d'un point de vue non seulement technique mais également en termes de coût et de signification, dans une contextualisation qui prend en compte les autres acteurs du projet : ingénieurs, structure, en mécanique et en énergie, paysagistes, urbanistes, concepteurs lumières, experts sols, en pierre et en recyclage, écrivains, réalisateurs, musiciens... L'époque de l'interdisciplinarité est celle de « l'architecte-nomade » de Gropius comme il est écrit : « Il est nécessaire de tester et de prouver la capacité du prototype de projet à « bien vieillir » pour faire face aux enjeux climatiques, aux enjeux d'adaptabilité, aux demandes croissantes de l'utilisateur et aux contextes urbains et ruraux ».

car la capacité à « bien vieillir » dans de telles conditions est l'essence même d'une conception

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usuelle et ce « capital social » de l'artisanat.
Richard Sennett a décrit comme « cet instinct
primaire de l'homme : l'ambition de réaliser
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L'apprentissage de la pratique architecturale des moyens du temps, des besoins et de l'espace devient une théorie du processus au sein de la construction est appréhendée non comme

traiter mais plutôt comme un savoir-faire complexe et performant que l'architecte doit développer

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As time passes and the ecological debate de

velops around the globe, we are being forced to recognise that we are living through a much broader series of transitions — energetic, ur

ban, migratory and industrial, to name but a few — which are combining to dismantle the functionalist order that had established itself between the industrial revolution and the economic boom which followed the Second World War. The ecological scene brings together architects for whom this dismantling process triggers a desire to transform the theory and practice of architecture. Some readdress the culture of building while others study alternatives to the post-Fordian city or draw up process-based theories of architecture. These advances enliven the intense internal debate and the analyses and visions of these actors can diverge widely. But they agree on the fact that a historical cycle is coming to an end and that its paradigms can no longer

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This scene continues to represent only a small minority, especially in a Western world that calls itself “developed”. The hypothesis that these Great Transitions concern architecture is re

ceived with scepticism or even hostility by those historians and theoreticians who are unable to think beyond the post-functionalist silo. The re

sulting idea cannot possibly be compared, they claim, with the rise of the Modern Movement and its radical ruptures (which underpin so many current authorities: educational, historical, academic). This disagreement is based not on fact (no one denies that we are experiencing an

energetic transition) but on scale. For the ecological scene, events ranging from the oil crisis of 1974 to the systemic crisis of 2008 are not a series of simple shocks which have affected the course of progress but a historic caesura: a caesura between a long industrial cycle which transformed the planet on the shoulders of Modernist design and a 21st century which must abandon oil.

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this design approach “which doesn’t have the instruments for understanding something which rather than a crisis, is an ecological mutation” .

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For those adherents of Post-Functionalism who remain loyal to the productivist industrial ap

proach, these crises are modest in scale. They will find a solution, by evolving their systems

—

urban, technological, architectural. They will challenge neither the paradigms nor the course of Modernist progress which are based on the control of the world, of space and of time.

This divergence reveals a political and theoretic

tical conflict. Besides the most obvious differences

(in, for example, the energy debate, with its economic aspects), it concerns approaches to designing and producing space. One key is

sue — in the space/time/architecture trilogy

is the relationship with *time*.

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A sustainable approach to the city implies the activation of
and methods of the architect. For Jana Revidin, the ecologi
transform the theory and practice of architecture so as to m
of the radicanant. Though the still numerous advocates of Po
terms of simple evolutions of systems, we, on the contrary s

on the resources of the era, and of the context, in order to do
the process is not subordinate to a product or a final form. The
than the finished project, in line with a vision where the pro

ments over time. This vision of architecture allows us to free
uses and users according to an iterative approach to exper

*“Learning is less about acquiring or
transmitting information or existing ideas
than it is about collectively designing a
world that is worth living in.”*

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Radicant Design:time, needs and experimentation

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Architects today no longer claim to be agents of the radical *perfection* that the Modernists belie

ved would emerge from the combination of the tabula rasa and speed; rather, they develop the conditions for appropriated *improvement* and trigger a progressive process in which the in

habitants are the actors because it is they who define the content and the pace. The principal resource of this participative approach is time.

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Time as a resource can deepen this debate about readdressing the long-term nature of the process of the formation of habitat and of cities. In the productivist Modernist economy time is money — we can save time — and cost reduc

tion has encroached into architecture. Indeed, wasn't the *tabula rasa* itself nothing more than a means of cleansing and saving time? Razing the ground is a way of eliminating contexts and the need to take these into account; of flattening any residue left behind by history, geography or for

mer uses — which can get in the way of a project —

and of inserting this project into the context of a blank sheet of paper or a screen. It is also

and above all — a way of reducing the time lost

through interactions with local inhabitants.

But if, in a characteristic inversion of the ecologi-

cal approach, we stop subordinating the process to the final product and, conversely, consider that this product should be defined as a function of the nature and activation of the available re-

sources, it is the quality of the process, its en-

richment, that prevails over the design of the product. In such a situation, time is no longer a cost but a resource with multiple qualities: it is unlimited, universally available, inexpensive

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The reintegration of time opens the way for an experimentally reformist architecture which no longer considers — and this is a new theoretical direction — the project as the design of the per-

fect *product* but, rather, as a long-term *process* of improving inhabited milieux. This long-term probationary approach repudiates Modernist r-

dicalism. It suggests that construction itself mat-

ters more than the constructed, that time spent *thinking, experimenting and doing* matters more than the final execution of the object. And even, perhaps, that architecture is not a finished ob-

ject but a collective moment of co-programming, co-conceiving and co-constructing, a phase in the continuous process by which humans make and remake — in a *radicant* manner — habitat,

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city, milieu under the complex influence of the available resources, human experience, the sec-

mentary timescale of the city and the long-term rhythm of geography and climate.

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This different way of using time also opens up a political — radicanant — approach. We know that time pressure is the enemy of democracy. In this sense, one could hope that architecture is able

to escape from its role as an agent of a vertical and radical political timescale in order to get closer to society and explore the new (and yet so ancient!) paradigm of the civic responsibility

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The radicant Design methodology proposes a multi-rooted analysis of place and of the needs of its inhabitants, aiming to propose different scenarios for a collectively designed urban and

architectural development. Therefore we settle in
the place for many weeks and firstly lead a his

torical, morphological and typological analysis
setting the place in its geographical and envi

ronmental context—the “classical” analysis ar

chitects should be educated in. Yet, we lead this
analysis with the people and in the following we
form groups of interdisciplinary research, res

pecting the four fields of sustainable develop

ment: economic/political; social; cultural and, c

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These research groups use the toolbox of participatory Design: workshops and dialogues with the inhabitants and users and SWOT evaluations, which document the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the place. The results are documented in inclusive mappings and thematic cartographies — easily understandable for

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The radicant approach aims to co-design and co-realise necessary projects “with and by the people”, rethinking existing environments and public spaces in a way to foster circular econo

mies and catalyst effects of self-developpement

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Because the truth is that time is the best vehicle for collective decision-making. By facilitating the attentive identification of needs and the develop

ment of projects which respond to these needs, time is the raw material of this radical approach

— which is humble in the sense that it doesn't claim to provide radical solutions to problems.

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This analysis of place and of its milieux, this act of giving the floor to the unique character of any local situation , of listening to users and

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uses, of experimenting with urban and architectural co-programming as a form of civic ca

talyst and of persuading inhabitants and our

selves — the architects — to accept extensive dialogue and sensibly elaborated compromise during a collective process of co-conception and co-construction naturally requires time. But there are two more priceless dimensions which it requires even more: humility and curiosity.

Learning from the existing, from its collective memory , its symbols and analogies , its sensual

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and the needs and aspirations of society be

fore our creative ego and believing that public spaces “(...) have the capability of providing something for eve

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T A N C E O F M A K I N G

Achieving the highest possible
quality of designing and ma

king through continuous expe

rimentation, through trial and
error is, however, not a new ap

proach. Rather it is the original
approach of our profession be

cause “(...) the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

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This *necessary* revival, which is consistently based on the knowing investment of the re

sources of time, needs and experimentation and whose results must, of necessity, be *in the ser*

vice of society, is taking place fifty years after the learning-by-making pedagogies established in Illinois, Berkeley or Venice¹¹ and nearly a cen

ture after the Bauhaus' unequalled revolution in design teaching, which grew out of Walter Gropius' pioneering methodology of mixing artisanal, industrial and trading traditions, expertise and aspirations.

The Bauhaus' experimental work, which was organised in long-term curricula and recipro

cal consulting sessions that used *open-work* learning dialogues¹², had to result in the deve

lopment of “scalable” design concepts, which were “ready for reproduction yet typical for our

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While intense demand from industry and com

merce meant that the design of industrially pro

ducible objects quickly overshadowed his early attempts to approach context-conscious archi

tectural or urban design, Gropius returned to his original *reformatory* design attitude upon arri

ving in Harvard when he was asked to conceive his first architectural project overseas: “The

fusion of the regional spirit with a contemporary approach to design produced a house that I would never have built in Europe with its entirely different climatic, technical and psychological background. Adequate to its context it is to be of light construction, full of bright daylight and sunshine, alterable, time-saving, economical and useful in the last degree to its occupants whose life functions it is intended to serve.”¹³ In line with the theses developed with his sociologist friend Franz Müller-Lyer during their escape from Nazi-governed Germany, Gropius held that all future dwellings should prepare for “the age of nomadism”, a lifestyle of “simplicity, mobility, independency and emancipation”. Readers should note that he foresaw this “age of nomadism” in the mid-1930s, three-quarters of a century before Doug Saunders wrote “Arrival
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But what does “experimental design” mean for architectural learning? It means finding tools, materials, techniques and technologies which

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needs. It means that the architect has overall responsibility for identifying adequate answers

to necessary questions: the *right-tech* solution
between numeric self-deception and backward

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Radical Design: time, needs and experimentation
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EXPERIMENTATION AS RES

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Albert Schweitzer stated that example was not the main thing in teaching others — it was “the only thing”. And more than being a mere peda

gogical approach, example can also become a design tool. When students build their project proposals at a scale of 1:1 and develop their design not only technically but also in terms of content and meaning alongside other spe

cialists: structural, mechanical and energy en

gineers, landscape and city planners, lighting designers, wood, earth, stone and recycling ex

perts, writers, filmmakers, musicians ... the age of Gropius' interdisciplinary “nomad-architect
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One should test and prove the capacity of projected prototypes to “age well”, to meet the challenges of climate and user flexibility, urban and rural contexts — because the capacity to “age well” in such conditions is the very essence of a sus

tainable design approach that integrates civic practice and acceptance with the unique “social capital” of the crafts that Richard Sennett has called “that basic human impulse: the desire to do a job well for its own sake.”

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Collective design tasks realised through experimential learning

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ARNING: TIME, , NEEDS AND INDEX

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Architectural learning through the resources of time, needs and experimentation is thus a theory of process in which construction is un

derstood not as a factor which one sub-contracts but as a civic, creative and performative ability which the aspiring architect has to develop over m

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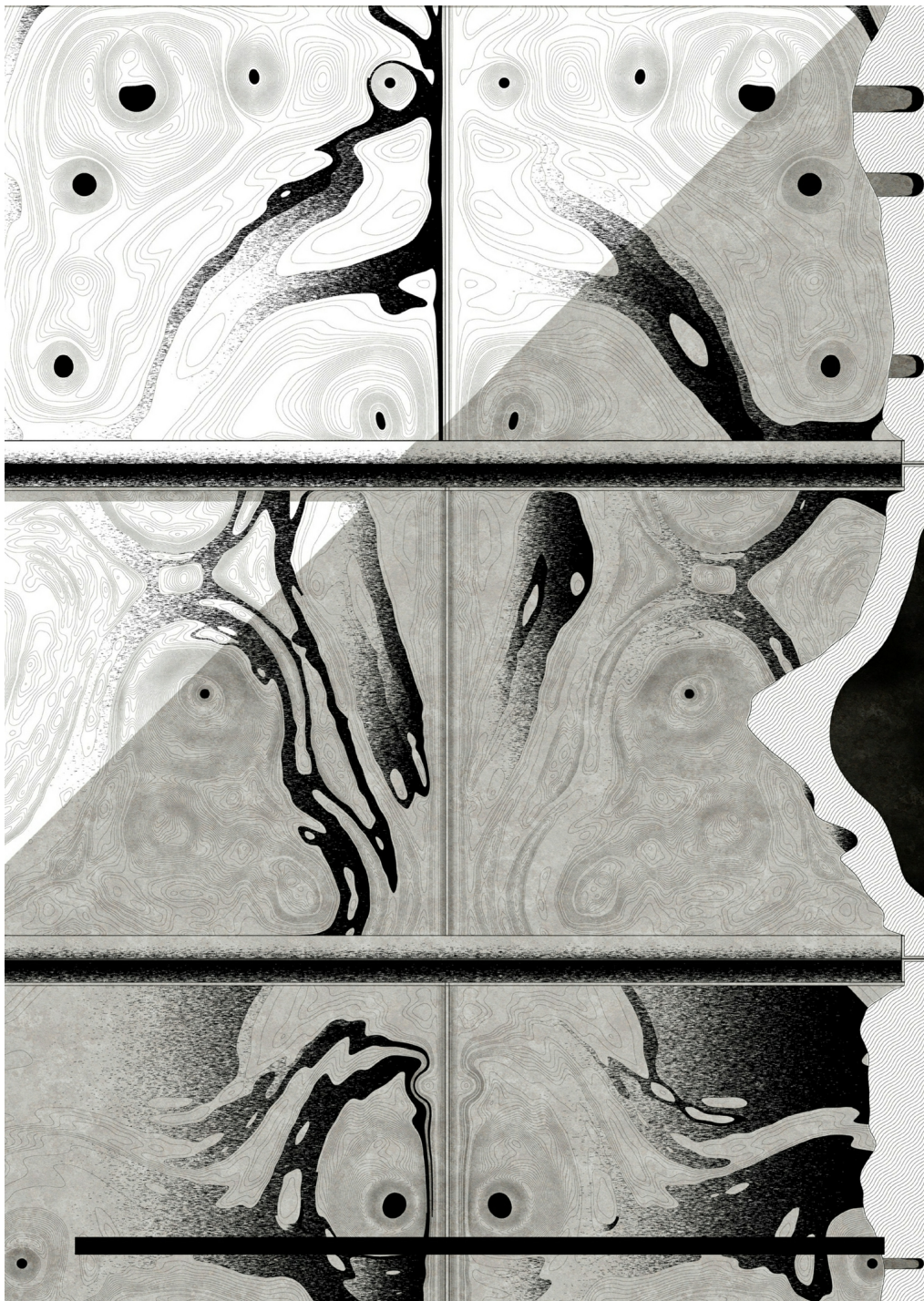
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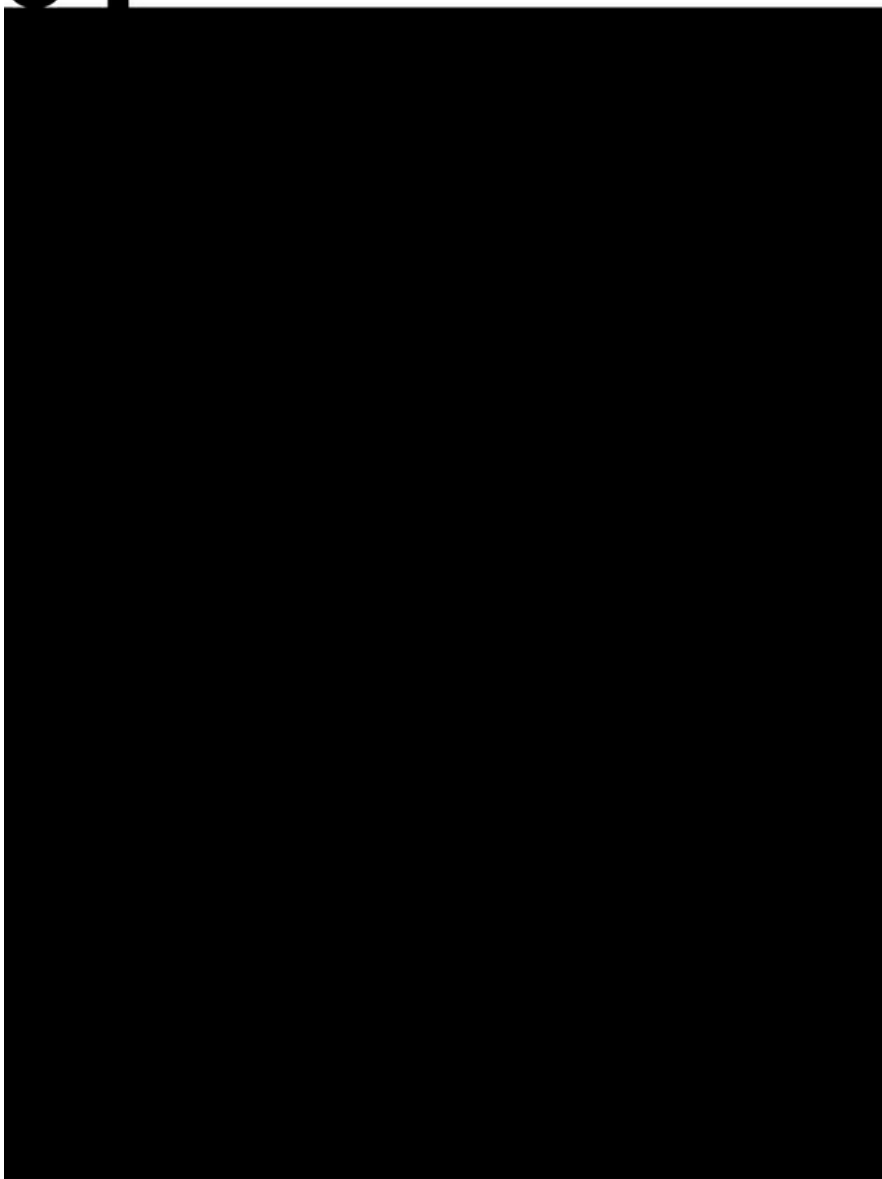
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En tant qu'architecte, j'ai toujours
été intéressée par les questions

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donné une série de séminaires à
la Yale School of Architecture sur
l'architecture « post-humaine », que
je définirais comme une architecture
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destinée à différentes espèces et
s'intéressant au caractère construit
de ce que nous qualifions de
« nature ». Le terme Anthropocène marque
dans les changements fondamentaux qui a
les considérer comme l'avènement d'une n
attirait pour le sujet vient de ma position crit
par les architectes sur l'humain, cet anthro

l'écologie et la nature comprennent une multitude d'êtres humains.
pourquoi nous concentrer sur une seule d'entre eux ?
Le discours post-humain ne dit pas « débarquons les autres
êtres humains », mais plutôt « mettons autres humains au centre de notre démarche ». Mon
discours post-humain m'a permis de comprendre que

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est une opportunité pour les architectes d'en
de construire pour des espèces variées, avec
des formes de vie qui devraient être traitées
et auxquelles l'on devrait accorder un habi
a ainsi élargi ma perspective et, pour dire le
simplement, la base de clientèle de l'archi

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*Il existe aujourd'hui quatre approches différen
l'humain, la technologie et la nature : les « né
reconnaître le moindre impact des activités
matière de réchauffement climatique; les « c
que la solution consiste à mettre fin à toute ac
« modérés », qui croient en l'équilibre entre
possibilité de changer les habitudes et les co
« accélérationnistes », qui militent en faveur
par la technologie. Où vous situez-vous ?*

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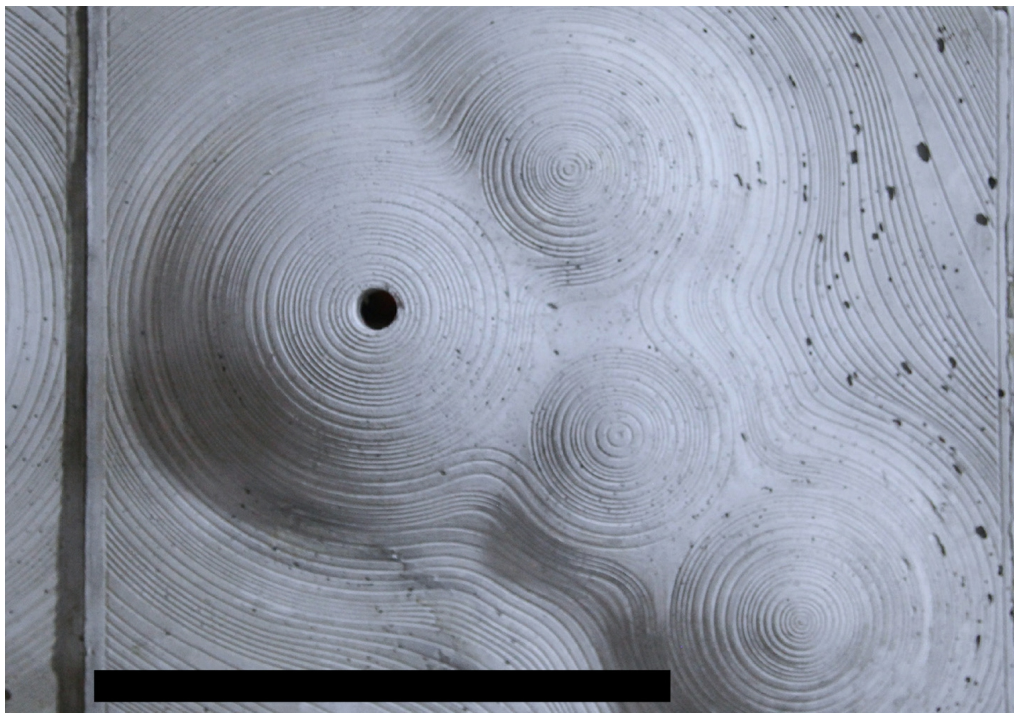
Il existe une autre position extrême, proche de celle de Bratton, qui estime que la technologie est si profondément liée à nous que le terme étroitement limité d'humain ne reflète pas la réalité que nous sommes. Nous sommes en fait une sorte d'hybride qui a toujours été, depuis les premières technologies, des prothèses, des dispositifs prothétiques, voire même simplement des outils que nous portons et pour lesquelles nous sommes dépendants. Bratton a récemment détaillé dans un livre intitulé *Artificiality* un futur peuplé d'entités qui sont partiellement humaines et partiellement machines, avec quelqu'un ou quelque chose – le plus souvent une machine – que nous ne serions plus en mesure de savoir distinguer. Les interlocuteurs sont constitués : il s'agirait d'entités hybrides. Bratton resitue cette idée dans le contexte d'une vision plus large de la technologie et de son impact sur la société.

l'informatique, soulignant notre capacité à
données d'une ampleur inédite, mais aussi
l'échelle d'un implant. Dans une certaine m
de « technologie » et de « nature » s'effondr
notre nouvelle nature ? La nature est-elle un
Pour revenir à ces différentes approches, j
clairement pas dans le camp des conservat
« arrêtons tout, restaurons les choses ». Mai
de construire une « nouvelle nature » ou cor
différent format de nature à l'aide de la tech
met face à des questions passionnantes sur
sait au juste de l'ancienne nature, mais auss
dont nos technologies nous en permettent
compréhension par cette capacité à manip

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*Pouvez-vous développer cette idée que la te
mieux comprendre la nature et le vivant ?*

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J'explore les relations homme-animal et su
de voir à quel point nous savons peu de cho
Nous estimons qu'il existe entre 2 et 10 mill
le monde, alors que nous n'avons de noms c

d'entre elles. Cela laisse potentiellement p
créatures inconnues. Sans compter que no
lacunes dans la connaissance des organis
identifiés. Toutefois, les nouvelles technolo
nous ont permis d'étoffer notre compréh
perceptibles par nos sens, tels que les micr
Nous pourrions aboutir à une connaissance
différente de ces espèces grâce à ces techn
lesquelles nous parvenons à les percevoir
Cela devrait nous permettre de former de n
d'interfaces avec de nombreuses espèces.
n'y a pas que l'« humain amélioré » qui part
interface, mais également tout un éventail c
nous avons tendance à qualifier formellem

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*De quelle façon vos projets d'« architecture i
à repenser ces interfaces, y compris dans no*

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Il y a dans le post-humain une dimension re
artistique, la représentation théâtrale ou la

d'explorer les limites du corps humain, et c
en permettant à des corps aux potentialités

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et appréciés comme interprètes. Certaines
ou installations artistiques impliquant des c
Pharmacophore et *Veal*, abordent ces ques
de veau », concernait ainsi les impacts écol
issue de l'élevage industriel. La performan
clairement une façon de proposer des rela
nous paraissent initialement étrangères. C
à approfondir la question de la relation au m
nous sommes retrouvés à nous demander s
des habitats qui ne soient pas uniquement c
La surface des bâtiments contemporains pr
humain, mais le verre des façades est si liss
y habiter. Notre projet intitulé *The Birds and*
les abeilles », joue sur des panneaux de bét
de cavités pouvant abriter des pollinisateu
éléments architecturaux logiques, sembla

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L'Architecture « post-humaine »

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d'intervention idéal. Si vous prenez les ma
Gotham, le New York des années 1920, ave

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de pierre, vous constaterez qu'ils ne sont p
fournissent des perchoirs, des lieux de nid
nombreuses créatures qui peuvent utiliser

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*L'architecture interactive est donc l'une des
d'accueillir et de protéger différentes espèc
urbains. Qu'en est-il des solutions de végéta
les bâtiments et les espaces publics plus « ve*

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Certains semblent penser que planter un tas d'arbres un peu partout est la solution magique : « Toits végétalisés et nous serons sauvés », en disant. Malheureusement, tout ce *greenwashing* ne fait que détruire les créatures qui font le travail de pollinisation. Il faut planter. Si nous nous mettons à envisager le monde d'une forme de technologie de nettoyage de l'air, nous devons d'abord comprendre de façon plus fine la façon

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Qu'en est-il de l'agriculture urbaine ? Votre quartier réputé pour cela... Quels en sont les

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En examinant le cas de Brooklyn, on pourra que cela fait « gadget ». Mais il y a aussi une base de recherche sur les environnements les toits végétalisés, pas seulement du point de vue de l'approvisionnement alimentaire, mais également en tant que nouveaux habitats. Un biologiste de la City University, Dustin Patridge, spécialiste des

insectes qui vivent sur les toits – et pas dans
urbains –, avance que les toits constituent un
environnement différencié. J'aimerais aussi
le travail de l'architecte Marco Casagrande
des traditions agricoles vernaculaires dans
de son travail à Taïpei. Le paysagiste Gilles
également contribué à un essai sur mon tra
de l'architecture post-humaine, et je pense
plupart des gens qui s'intéressent au sujet p
sa vision d'une agriculture urbaine rappro
production alimentaire du centre névralgi
zones d'habitation, notamment pour des qu
de coût écologique du transport. Il existe d
de nombreux facteurs qui me poussent à ne
considérer l'agriculture urbaine comme un

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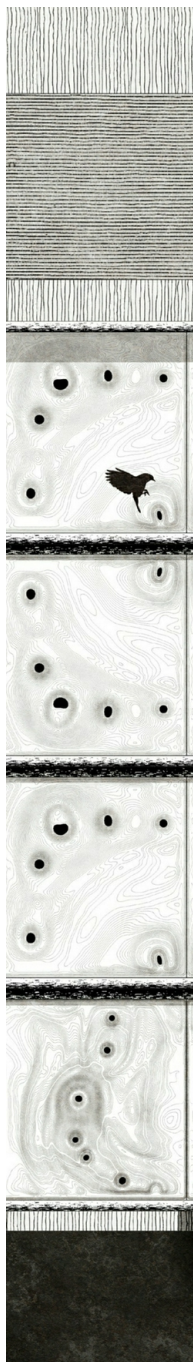
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L'Architecture « post-humaine »

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*Pouvez-vous nous en dire davantage sur vos
Étant donné la complexité accrue du monde
mais aussi les nouvelles technologies à notre
devrions-nous former les architectes de demain*

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L'idée qu'une personne ou qu'une discipline
l'ensemble de la complexité du bâti moderne

Mes séminaires abordent ainsi des recherches dans le champ architectural à proprement parler, mais aussi *animal studies* et les autres théories environnantes. L'interaction entre les disciplines scientifiques est un aspect important qui doit être amélioré par une plus grande ouverture aux sciences humaines et sociales. Comprendre les systèmes complexes est beaucoup plus poussé avec ceux qui étudient la science d'une façon plus scientifique que ne le font les architectes. Les derniers ne disposant pas du temps nécessaire pour aller en profondeur. La Yale School of Architecture a un dialogue très fort avec la Yale School of Forestry et propose un programme de double diplôme qui génère une collaboration intéressante entre la vision architecturale et la gestion durable de l'environnement de la Yale University.

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Quelles sont les futures innovations qui vous intéressent dans le domaine de l'architecture ?

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J'en vois beaucoup, mais pour l'exploration entre humains et non-humains, je citerais probablement favorites les technologies simples et relativement peu coûteuses du marché qui participent de la nouvelle culture « tous producteurs », dans laquelle peuvent intervenir les architectes. Ce que l'on appelait auparavant « sciences citoyennes », en ornithologie par exemple, se fait maintenant avec beaucoup plus d'acuité à l'aide de drones et de systèmes de surveillance. Il y a de nombreuses innovations dans la pensée écologique et l'influence de l'Ontologie Orientée Objet – une meilleure compréhension et un intérêt renouvelés pour

de l'environnement, alors que les générations
d'architectes ne considéraient pas nécessairement la
question de l'environnement comme de leur affaire.
même, les innovations dans la pratique même de
l'architecture devraient permettre de concevoir une
architecture, ouverte à de multiples espèces.

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Building the city of the Anthropocene era requires taking g

ring all living beings in the actual construction of the building. Lourie-Harisson has developed the concept of a “post-hu

cates an exploration of the possibilities of building according to the building, redefining the relationships of man with animals. Architecture is born, in particular with regard to facades,

host pollinators or provide nesting spaces in their rugged spaces. The living and of being open to different environmental theories of biodiversity, in particular on roofs.

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Your work explores the “posthuman” entanglement of the human, technology, and nature within the built environment. What is “posthuman architecture” and what led you to develop this concept? Is it a solution to the way we build cities in today’s Anthropocene

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As an architect, I've always been interested in

environmental issues. I taught a series of seminars at the Yale School of Architecture (YSOA) on posthuman architecture, which I would define as an environmentally conscious architecture that addresses multiple species and deals with the constructed character of what we call “nature.” The term Anthropocene marks our recognition of our role in fundamentally changing the earth, so much so that we refer to a new geological period. My interest in this topic emerges from a critique of architecture’s focus on the human architecture’s anthropocentrism: ecology and nature are clearly comprised of multiple species, why are we so focused on just one? The posthuman discourse is not about saying “let’s get rid of humans,” but rather “let’s move humans away from the center of our inquiry.” The work on the posthuman helped me look at this Anthropocene moment as an opportunity for architects to consider building for multiple

species, building with a broader idea of what life forms should be treated as citizens, and what life forms should be given habitation. I think the posthuman enlarged my view, in very basic terms, of what architecture's client base could be
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There are four different approaches to the interpretation of the triangle that comprises the human, technology and nature: the “deniers,” who refuse to acknowledge any

impact of human activities on nature, such as with global warming; the “conservatives,” who argue that the solution is to stop any intensive human activity on the planet; the “moderates,” who believe in a balance between economy and ecology, and in changing our human habits and behavior; and the “accelerationists,” who advocate the transformation of nature by technology. Where do you stand?

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sition alongside that of the “accelerationists,” which suggests that technology is so deeply embedded in us that the bounded term human does not accurately represent us: we are, and pe

rhaps always have been, a kind of hybrid, from the medical technologies that have shaped us to our use of devices as prosthetics or the bac

teria for which we are a biome. Benjamin Brat

ton’s recent book *The Stack* lays out a vision of the future with entities that are partially carbon: when you’re speaking to someone or something

usually something, you will no longer know what percentage of human they are. They are a car

bon/non-carbon hybrid. He contextualizes this idea in light of today's planetary scale of compu

tation, whereby we have the ability to compute

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such large quantities of data and potentially miniaturize them to an implant level. In some sense the categories of “human,” “technology,” and “nature” from your triangle break down: is technology our new nature? Is nature a type of

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Returning to this variety of positions, obviously I’m not in the conservative camp that says “let’s restore nature, let’s stop everything.” But when you decide that you are going to construct a new nature, or construct into a different format of nature using technology, you find yourself asking some very interesting questions about

what we even knew about the old nature to be

gin with, and how our newer technologies and our ability to compute massive bodies of data may allow us an understanding of the old nature that we could never have had before.

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Could you further develop your point that technology has allowed us to understand nature and the living better? Has technology radically changed the paradigm of urban

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My work attempts to look at human-animal re

lationships, and what is perhaps initially sur

prising is how little is known about other spe

cies. We believe there are somewhere between 2 million and 10 million species in the world. We have names for 1.6 million. So that's 8.4 million possible beings that we do not know or have names for. We have big gaps in our knowledge about the entities that we have identified. Howe

ver, one of the things that scientific technolo

gies have let us do is to gain new understand

ings about species that elude our senses, such as microbes and bacteria. We may be able to

have a completely different knowledge of multiple species because technology allows us to perceive them as entities. Technology may allow us a new kind of interface with a variety of species. This means that it wouldn't just be the human-augmented, but a whole variety of basically any thing we would formally call "nature" which could participate in this new interface.

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How does your "interactive architecture" project help to rethink these new interfaces, including the relationship to non-human

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There is a discourse in the posthuman about performance—posthuman was first used in the context of performance art—according to which performance in terms of theater or dance was an avenue to perceiving the limits and the refore the potential of the human body, allowing differently abled bodies to be seen and appre

ciated as performers. A few of our installation/performance works with dancers, such as *Phar macophore* and *Veal*, take up these issues. *Veal*, for example, was about the ecological consequences of industrially farmed meat. Performance certainly is one way to propose relationships with entities that initially seem foreign. This work led us deeper into the issue of relating to the non-human and we found ourselves asking if we could create habitats for more than the human. For example, we think about building surfaces which privilege the human gaze: the glass is so smooth, no one else can inhabit the facade. One project, *The Birds and the Bees*, involves cement panels with texture and cavities as housing for pollinators. Starting with a logical architectural element—the facade panel—seemed to be a clear place where

one could intervene. When we think back to the wonderful landscapes of Gotham New York in the 1920s with all the stone ornaments, we may forget that each ornament, while beautiful, was also a perch, a nesting area, a habitat for many creatures that used those nooks and crannies

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Interactive architecture is one of the solutions to welcome and protect multiple living entities in urban contexts. What about vegetalization solutions that aim at making buildings and public spaces “greener”?

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Some camps believe all you need to do is to plant a carpet of grass and trees over every

thing and every surface: “make green roofs, and that will save us.” Unfortunately, all of that

greenwashing requires some creatures to do the work of pollination. It's not enough to just plant them. If we are going to look at trees as a kind of air-cleaning technology, we obviously have to understand a little more about how trees live and replicate themselves.

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Your practice is located in Brooklyn, which has been known for urban farming for several years. What are the real impacts and the future of urban farming?

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If you look at Brooklyn you might say urban farming could, from a certain perspective, look gimmicky. But there is also a real base of re

search on the new environments provided by green roofs, not just as food sources—which they are—but also as new habitats. A biologist trained at Fordham University, Dustin Partridge is one of the experts on bird and insect species that frequent Brooklyn and NYC's green roofs. His research has found species of birds and in

sects on roofs that are not represented in any of our urban parks, which suggests that roofs are a differentiated new environment. I'd also point to the architect Marco Casagrande using vernacular farming traditions in his work in Taipei. The landscape architect Gilles Clement contributed an essay to my work on posthuman architecture, and I think his position is shared by a lot of people looking at urban farming in relationship to making food closer to the locus of dense human habitation because of the en

vironmental cost of transportation. So, there are several reasons why I don't think urban farming

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Can you tell us more about your teaching activities? Given the increased complexity of our world and our environment, as well as the new technology that is available to us, how do you think we should teach future a

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discipline could encompass the complexity of today's built environment is a very old one. The seminars that I've taught, for example, are certainly looking to literature outside of the architectural discipline, for instance to animal studies and all kinds of environmental theory. Fluency in scientific disciplines is an important aspect of teaching, which could be increased by an openness to collaborations with scientists.

Understanding today's systems requires a much more intensive dialogue with people that are studying our environment in a more sustained way than I think architects would, because they wouldn't have the time to do that kind of in

depth work themselves. It is interesting to note that the School of Architecture at Yale has had a strong dialogue with the Yale School of Forestry with a joint degree program that provides a productive tension and collaboration between YSOA's disciplinary view of architecture and the School of Forestry's work on managing the environment in a more sustainable way.

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What future innovations can you identify in

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There are many, but a few favorites for work on the interface between humans and non-humans would include technologies that are small, re

latively inexpensive, and participate in a DIY culture that architects can be part of. What was formerly called

“citizen science”—such

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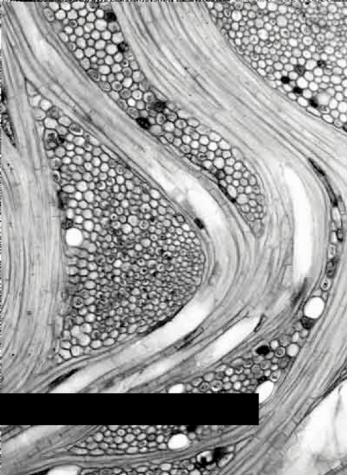
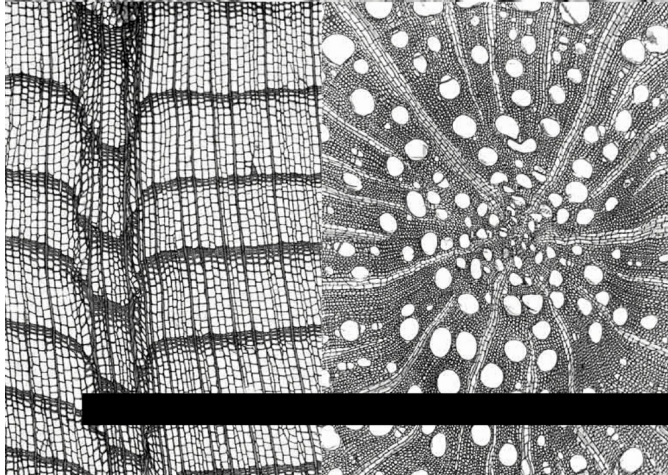
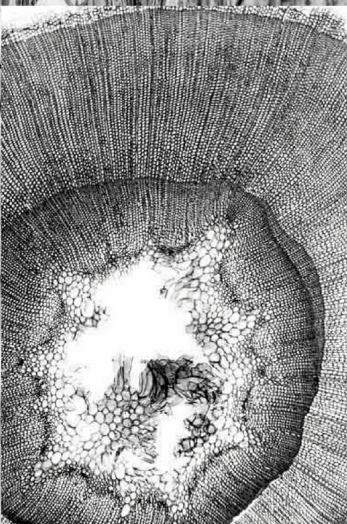
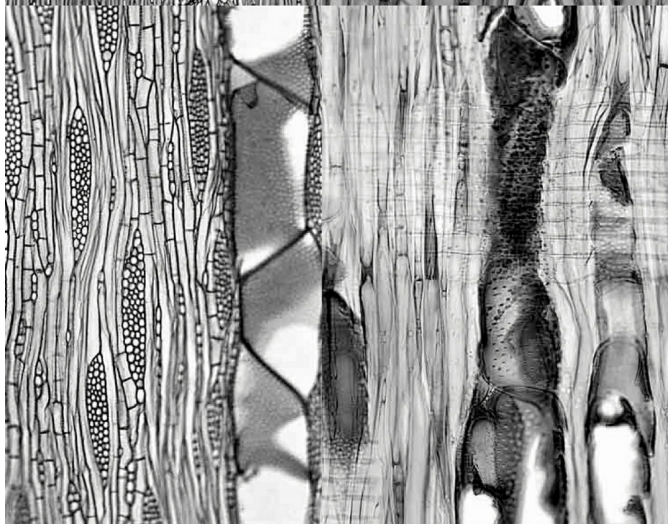
birdwatching—can now be done much more acutely with sensors, drones, and monitoring technologies. There are innovations in ecolo

gical thought, perhaps under the influence of object-oriented-ontology, that encourage new

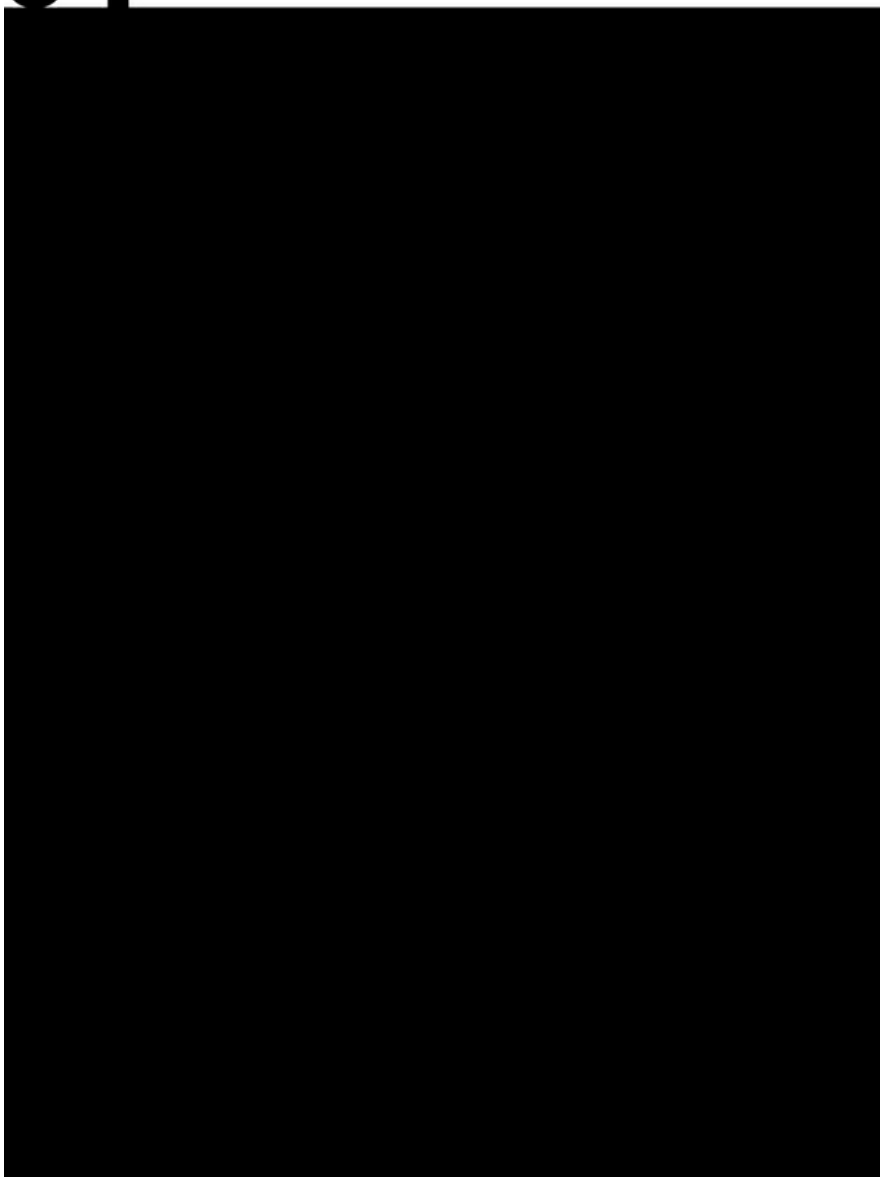
understanding and interest in the complexity of the environment, whereas in prior generations of architects, the environment was not neces

sarily seen as the architect's problem. Equally, innovations in design or studio culture could seize the opportunity to design for multiple

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*Vous êtes à la fois entrepreneur,
architecte et chercheur en biologie.
Une nouvelle forme d'architecture
est-elle en train de voir le jour, à la croisée de
sciences, des techniques et des arts ?*

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Nous vivons une période d'évolution
des modes de pensée, qui ne se
cantonnent plus à la recherche

d'inspiration dans le monde
artistique par exemple. L'époque est
à l'action et celle-ci va puiser ses
modèles dans d'autres domaines,
s'ouvrant à une multidisciplinarité
oubliée depuis bien longtemps.
Nous assistons à une transgression
des dogmes propres à l'architecture
moderne des années 1950-60.
Des laboratoires de recherche
commencent à se créer dans les
agences d'architecture, notamment aux États
universitaires, comme en atteste le Media I
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L'architecte a toujours été un penseur. Ses typologies urbaines ou les performances s'intéressent à l'architecture pour elle-même et son intérêt pour la matérialité en elle-même est « architecte » glisse d'ailleurs du titre – le banal courant. Composer avec un matériau – ADN – inventer de nouvelles formes suffit à se revendiquer architecte. On le voit avec les « *genome architects* » ou les « *de* matière » deviennent architectes, ces de manipuler la matière, rôle jusqu'alors réservé

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d'un architecte envers un matériau est très
combinaison des sciences et de l'architect

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À titre personnel, je soutiens l'engagement
rassemblement disciplinaire. Ils ont une gr
tant que bâtisseurs des villes de demain, de
matérielle, construite, mais également dan
face aux causes environnementales, huma
Traditionnellement à l'interface de différen
me semble que le rôle de l'architecte est de
création d'une forme inerte pour engager u
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Vous avez reçu de nombreux prix de l'innovation.

Pourquoi vous êtes-vous intéressé à ce matériel ?

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J'ai fondé Woodoo avec l'idée de développer

performance, imputrescible et plus rigide.
moléculaires opérées pour « augmenter » c
effet subsidiaire qui a participé à la popular

travaillant dans les agences de Sanaa et de
à m'intéresser à la matérialité et ainsi initié
d'architecte vers la biologie moléculaire e
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Bien que mon parcours ait été international
France pour développer Woodoo, car de g

bois qui y est produit chaque année – l'équivalent
couvrant quatre fois Paris – est inutilisé. La France
forestière d'Europe et malgré cela la filière bois
Notre pays constitue la première puissance
bois sur pied – 2.7 milliards de m³ disponibles
infime partie de ses ressources. Le considérable
selon les propriétés – privées, des collectivités
industriel porté aux essences résineuses n'exploite
surface forestière, amènent le pays à importer
la construction. Paradoxalement, la France
de grumes et l'importe une fois manufacturée.

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Or ce matériau, l'un des plus primitifs de l'histoire
bien devenir l'élément de construction du futur
que nous avons développée permet par exemple

essences de faible constitution, ouvrant de nouvelles. Plus fort, plus économique, plus également le seul à être 100 % renouvelable

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fois coupé il maintient le dioxyde de carbone dans la structure – même s’il cesse de dégager de la chaleur libre que s’il est brûlé. C’est en bois que sera construit demain, plus dense et plus respectueuse d

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Par quel procédé parvenez-vous à obtenir un bois massif en termes de construction cela permet-il ?

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Cela fait 420 millions d’années que le génie

dans une véritable optique d'évolution dans
tridimensionnelle a véritablement été micro
organisation qui se perd totalement dans le
En m'intéressant au mur de la paroi cellulaire
qu'un architecte le ferait de la microarchite

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En extrayant la lignine du bois massif – mac

et en comblant les 60 à 90 % d'air contenu d

résine végétale, il est possible de renforcer la géométrie interne du bois, laissant intacte la lignine extraite, le procédé de greffage de cellulose permet à la lumière de passer. Le monomère utilisée est un monomère biosourcé, ce qui signifie qu'il est composé d'éléments présents dans la biomasse. Il est possible de fabriquer des sacs plastiques à partir de maïs ou de pomme de terre grâce à la chimie verte. Tout ce que l'économie fossile perd par la bioéconomie en utilisant le vivant, nous pouvons le récupérer. Dans une démarche d'économie circulaire, le plastique est réutilisable par voie de méthanisation pour produire du méthane, par voie pharmaceutique pour produire des médicaments, par voie industrielle pour produire de la fibre de carbone (sans les ajouts aromatiques). La lignine peut être utilisée pour produire des perles seraient le benzène, le xylène ou le toluène qui constituent les briques de base de la pétrochimie. À la lignine toutes les qualités pour devenir un matériau.

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En quoi la dimension vivante du bois en fait un

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On dit du bois qu'il est « vivant » car sa forme changeant
donnant la sensation qu'il continue à vivre. C'est dû
de son élasticité et, selon l'hygrométrie, il se déforme.
Ce matériau est également capable de s'oxyder, prenant
une couleur grise avec l'âge. Bien qu'il ne se dégrade pas

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vivant une fois coupé, le bois continue à évoluer, croître et de respirer. Malheureusement, il n'est pas employé en France pour la construction. Au Japon, les architectures japonaises ou américaines, inspirées de l'éphémère ou du nomadisme, l'architecture d'un héritage cartésien, est conçue pour durer. C'est un hasard si mon intérêt pour le bois s'est révélé au Japon. Dans la société nippone, la dégradation est une partie du cycle de vie d'un bâtiment ; l'authenticité est sa forme et à sa fonction plutôt qu'à son matériau. Les pièces des temples sont ainsi reconstruites, sans l'identique, sans sacralisation de l'*original*. L'architecture comme processus évolutif, qui se régénère à la manière d'un corps vivant me paraît l'opposé d'un bloc figé et immuable pour l'éternité.

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Modifier le vivant est sujet à débat, qu'en est-il ?

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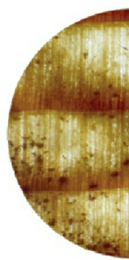
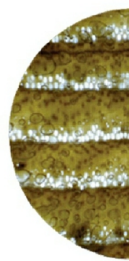
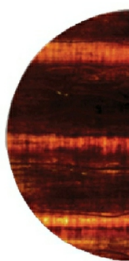
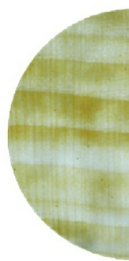
La nature possède sa propre logique. L'humain utilise la nature pour la renforcer dans l'optique de l'intelligence mise en œuvre pour aller plus vite dans ses propres intérêts. Il n'est pas question de domination, puisque le bois ne se domestique plus, en dehors de quelques rares forêts primaires. Il est impossible de réguler la population, d'autre part. Nous devons construire en bois pour réduire l'impact de la construction plus haut pour densifier les centres urbains de l'économie mondiale. En ce sens je suis plus optimiste. Je ne prône pas un ralentissement de la croissance. Nous sommes allés trop loin dans la course à la construction hyper-métropoles et de l'intelligence urbaine.

la population sur le territoire et lui imposer
surcroît agricoles. Je crois à la puissance te
répercussions de l'impact de l'homme sur
l'espoir que les nouveaux matériaux perm
et bonheur. Nous allons assister à des muta
la politique et de l'environnement si rapide
amorcer une réflexion au long cours pour c

fou de manière simultanée. Si le marché du
nous faudrait – comme pour toute technolo
un comportement éthique, penser une ges
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You are at once an entrepreneur, architect, and biology researcher. Is a new form of architecture emerging at the intersection of science, technology, and the arts?

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We are living in a time when ways of thinking are evolving, where we are no longer confined to seeking inspiration from the art world, for example. Our era is an active one and one that will draw from models that exist in other do

mains, opening up a multi-disciplinarity that has long been forgotten. We are seeing a transgression of dogmas inherent to the modern architecture of the fifties and sixties. Architectural agencies are beginning to set up their own research laboratories, notably in the United States, based on university partnerships, as evidenced by the MIT Media Lab, geared toward a p p l i e d r e s e

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The architect has always been a thinker. His research deals with urban typologies and structural performances, but the emergence of an interest for materiality in itself is quite innovative. The designation “architect” has slipped from being a title—the builder of dwellings—into everyday language. Composing with a material—DNA, computer code—so as to invent new forms is now enough for one to claim to be an “architect,” as can be seen with “genome architects” or “data architects.” If “alchemists of matter” become architects, the latter then inversely begin to manipulate matter, a role that had pre

viously been reserved for engineers. However, an architect's approach to a material is very different to that of an engineer, the combination of science and architecture allows one to blend aesthetics and the pursuit of efficiency.

On a personal level, I support the commitment of architects to the gathering together of diffe

rent disciplines. They have a great responsibi

lity as builders of the cities of tomorrow, through their constructed, material contribution, but also through the position that they adopt when faced with environmental, human, and demo

graphic issues. Operating traditionally at the intersection of different trades, it seems to me that the role of the architect is to transcend the simple creation of an inert form so as to engage in an organic construction process.

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*You have received a number of awards
for innovation in relation to your work
with wood. Why and how did you become
interested in this material?*

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new high-performance, rot-resistant, and more rigid wood-based material. It turns out that the molecular manipulations that aim to “enhance” this wood also render it translucent, a seconda

ry effect that participated in the popularity of this new material. While working with the SA

NAA and Kengo Kuma agencies in Japan, I be

gan to become interested in materiality and thus initiated the shift of my path as an architect toward molecular biology and the science of materials that I studied at Harvard.

Building the city with and for the living also means increasing the living conditions that nature provides. An architect, entrepreneur and biologist, I live in a time of transgression of the dogmas of modern architecture. Thinking and designing, embodied by an interdisciplinary approach, the architect now plays the role of interface in order to transcend the traditional processes of construction. Boitouzet has been developing translucent—by replacing lignin with a plant resin, thus producing products of the bio-economy, this eco-responsible material—as a new alliance with the living, in such a way as to serve and go

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Even though my career has been international in nature, I had always wanted to come back to France to develop Woodoo, as there is a lot at stake there. Fifty percent of the wood that is produced there each year—the equivalent of a forest surface four times bigger than Paris—is left unused. France is the second largest forestry power in Europe and despite this its forestry sector is largely in deficit. Our country is the biggest European force in terms of volume of stumpage—2.7 billion available cubic meters and yet only exploits a tiny part of its resources. The considerable fragmentation of the forests into private, collective, or state properties and an industrial interest that is focused on softwood species—only represents 30 percent of the forestry surface, leading to the country im

porting wood, in particular for construction. Paradoxically, France exports its wood in the form of logs and then imports it once it has been manufactured, depriving itself of any added value. Yet this material, one of the most primitive in human history, could well become the building element of the twenty-first century. The technology that we have developed allows for example to emphasize weaker strains, and this could open up entirely new possibilities. Stronger, more economic, more eco-responsible, it is also the only strain that is 100 percent renewable, not to mention the fact that once cut it retains the carbon dioxide enclosed in its structure—even if it stops producing oxygen and only releases it when burned. The city of tomorrow will be built in wood, denser and more

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What process is used to obtain modified wood and what progress, in terms of construction, does it allow?

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For 420 million years the genius of natural engineering has perfected wood in a true pers

pective of Darwinian evolution. Its three-dimen

sional matrix has been truly micro-engineered by nature, a structure that is completely lost in chipboard. By becoming interested in the cell wall—using the same approach that an archi

tect would use for microarchitecture—I sought to improve its performance.

By extracting the lignin from the solid wood

the macromolecule that grants it its rigidity

and by replacing the 60–90 percent of air contained in its micro-cavities with plant resin, it is possible to reinforce the material's rigidity. This procedure in no way modifies the internal geometry of the wood, leaving its cellulose ske

leton intact. Once the lignin has been extracted, the procedure of the graft of the resin onto the crystalline structure of the cellulose allows light to pass through it and thus renders the wood

translucent. The resin used is a bio-sourced monomer, which means that it is synthesized from elements that are present in biomass. It is for example possible to produce plastic bags from corn or potatoes thanks to this method of “green” chemistry. Everything that the fossil economy has bequeathed to us can be repli

cated by the bio-economy through the use of the living, notably plants and bacteria.

In a circular economy approach, the extracted lignin can then be reused via methanization to produce green energy, or pharmaceutically to produce medicines and even via industrial means to produce bio-sourced carbon fiber (this requires aromatic additives). Lignin can be assimilated into a necklace whose pearls are made from benzene, xylene, or toluene; these three molecules make up the basic building blocks of today’s petrochemicals, providing li

gnin with all of the qualities necessary to beco

me a major element in the future bio-economy.

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*How does the living dimension of wood
make it a unique construction material?*

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Wood is said to be “alive” because its form
continues to change over time, giving the sen

sation that it continues to live. Its porosity is the
reason for its elasticity and, depending on hy

grometry, it contracts and deforms. This mate

rial is also capable of oxidizing, which gives it a grey color as it ages. Even though it is not li

terally “alive” once it has been cut, wood conti

nues to evolve, even though it stops growing and breathing. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient

ly employed in France for construction. Unlike Japanese and American architects, imbued with the culture of the ephemeral and with no

madism, French architecture, borrowing from a Cartesian heritage, is built to last. It is no coin

cidence that my interest in wood revealed itself during my stay in Japan. In Japanese society, the degradation of materials is part of the life cycle of a building; the authenticity of a place comes from its form and its function rather than its original material. Certain pieces of temples are thus always rebuilt identically, with no sa

cralization of *the original*. This understanding of architecture as an evolving process, that lives, degrades, and regenerates like a living body, speaks to me much more than that of a block, fixed and unchanging for eternity.

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Nature possesses its own logic. Mankind must establish an alliance with nature so as to stren

gthen it in order to better serve it. Our fu

ture depends on the use of intelligence to go beyond the use of nature only to serve our own interests. It is in no way a question of an oppo

sition between good and evil, nor of domina

tion, because wood cannot be tamed and do

mesticated. What's more, pure nature no longer exists, apart from a few, rare, primary forests.

Since it is nigh impossible for us to manage the population, other solutions need to be conside

red. We must build using wood to reduce our ecological footprint and build upwards so as to densify urban centers that continue to concen

trate the world economy. In this sense, I am more of an interventionist than a reductionist as

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We have gone too far in the race to supra-tech
nology, hyper-metropolises, and urban intelli

gence to ever hope to again spread populations out over territories and force them to live off the land, with the majority of them being farmers. I believe in the power of technology to limit the consequences of Man's impact on his environ

ment and I hope that newer materials will allow us to reconcile growth and happiness. We will see transformations in the economy, politics, and the environment that will be so rapid that they require a long-term thinking that needs to be engaged immediately, and that will allow us be in a position to simultaneously create the an

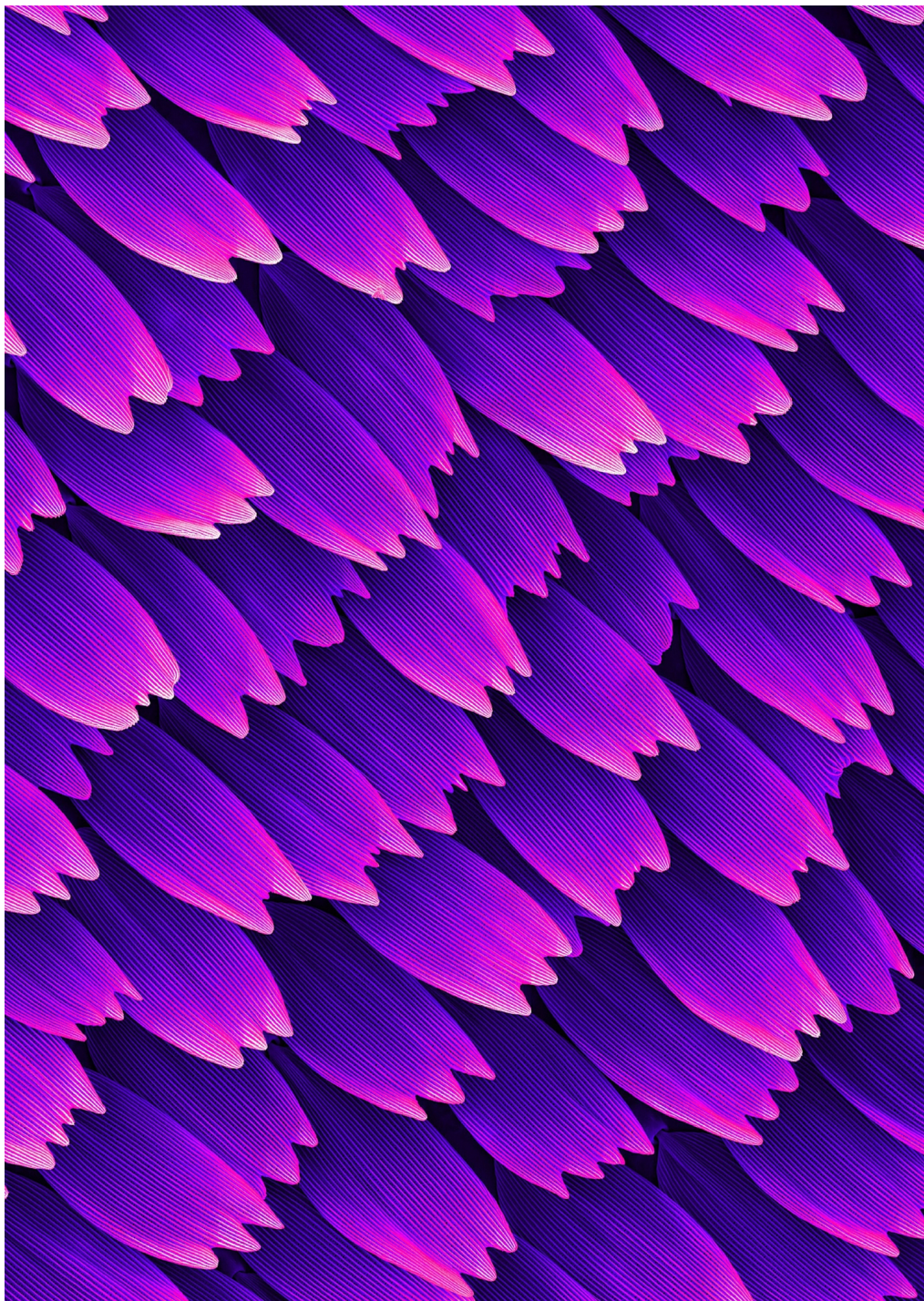
tidote and the safeguard. Even though the mar

ket for wood has just begun to take off, we need to—as for any technology with great potential

adopt ethical behavior, consider sensible ma

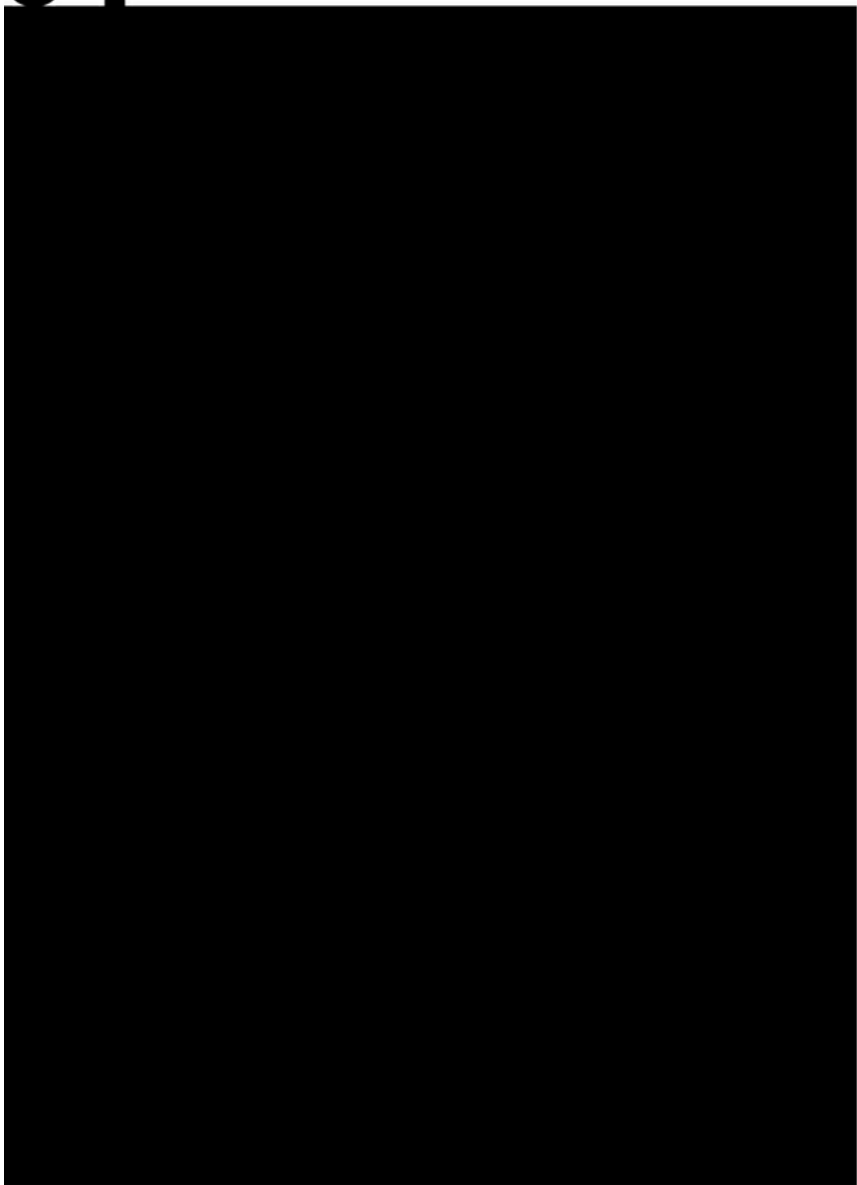
nagement, intelligently reintegrate stocks, and manage the transition, starting with the creation

of alliances between wood and concrete.





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Je suis à la tête du Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering à Harvard. L'institut a été fondé il y a huit ans et demi à partir du concept de base suivant : au cours des cinquante dernières années, l'ingénierie a transformé le monde en appliquant ses principes et méthodes à la résolution de problèmes dans de nombreux autres champs, notamment la médecine, l'industrie et l'architecture. Nous

pensons que nous en savons désormais suffisamment sur la façon dont la nature bâtit, contrôle et fabrique à toutes les échelles depuis le nano pour mettre à profit des principes biologiques et développer des innovations d'ingénierie pour différents types d'applications. C'est ce que nous appelons l'ingénierie bio-inspirée. Il ne s'agit pas d'ingénierie biomédicale mais bien de quelque

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En médecine, la plupart des gens connaissent les principes chimiques et les médicaments, mais les évolutions de ces trente dernières années viennent de la physique : les pacemakers, les implants cochléaires ou les médicaments, pour ne citer que quelques e-

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de l'Institut est née de la volonté d'Harvard

ingénierie. Même si j'ai d'abord étudié la m
suis tourné vers la bio-ingénierie lorsque j'
plusieurs disciplines pour résoudre des pr
missionné pour lancer cet Institut, autour d
venu de différents départements d'Harvar
de la région du Grand Boston. Leur point co
que les frontières entre les systèmes vivants
en train de s'effondrer. Je suis biologiste m
physique, tandis que des chercheurs en inf
physiciens publient dans des revues de bio
sont en train de s'estomper. Buckminster F
différents départements de chimie, de biol
tout à fait juste, mais c'est de cette façon-là c
partout dans le monde. Mais pour apporter
oublier sa discipline d'origine et aller au cr

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*C'est l'essence même de ce que nous explorons :
aller au-delà de ces divisions de la connaissance
dans un contexte d'urgence et de controverses.*

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*Nous sommes vraiment en train de tuer la pla
Cela revêt une signification particulière dan
quarts de la population mondiale vivront en*

*sommes spécialement concernés par cette s
être notre préoccupation prioritaire.*

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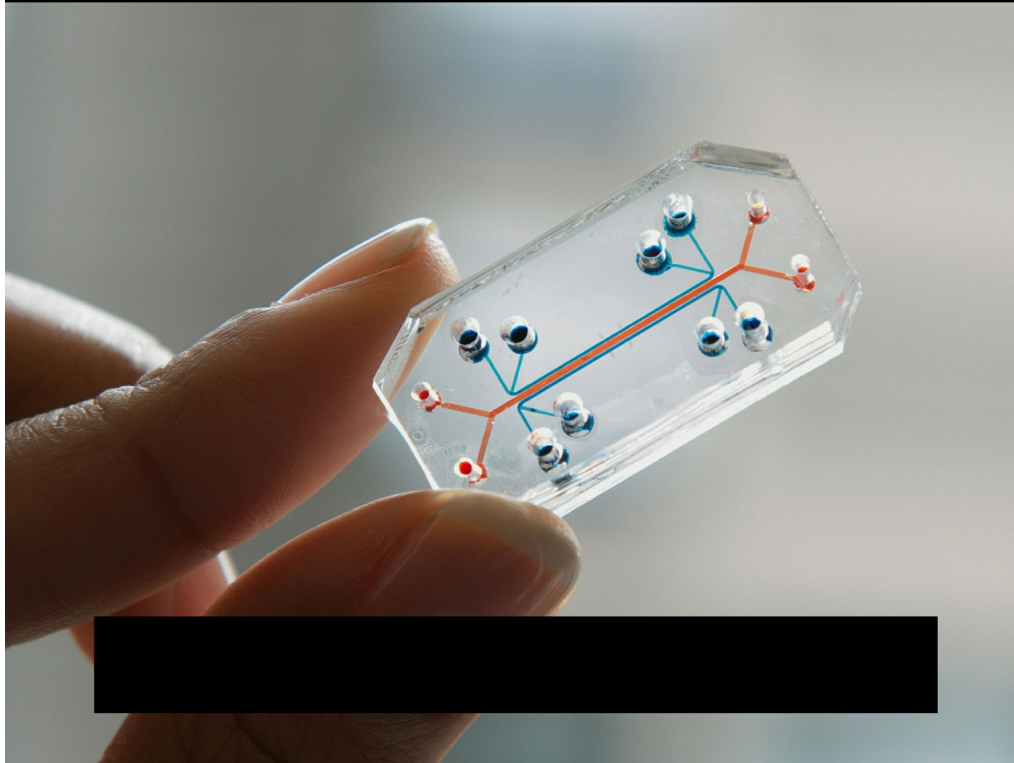
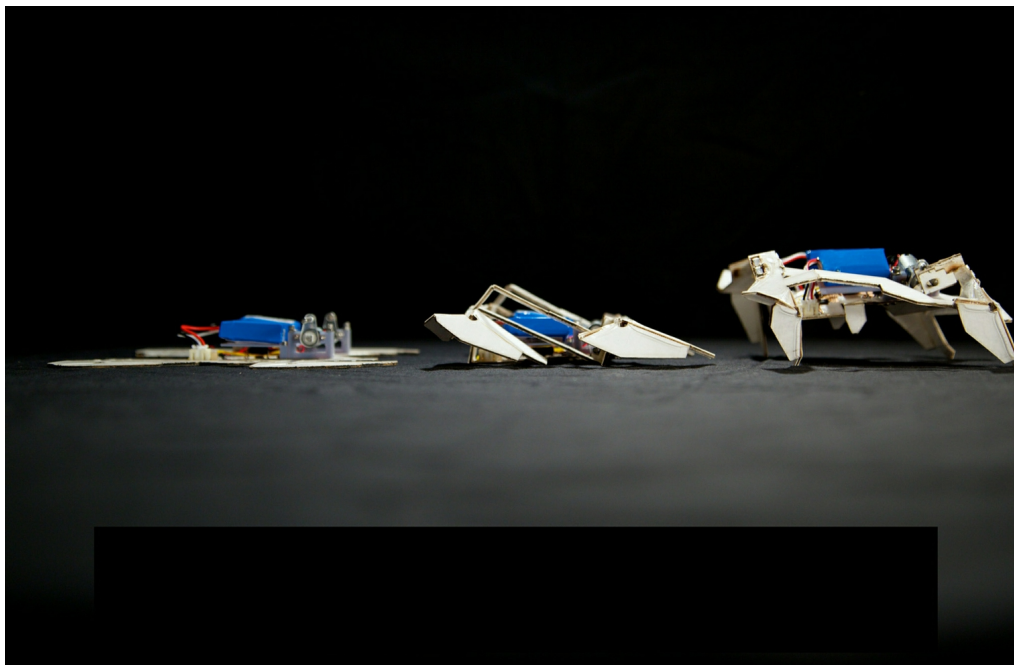
Lorsque nous avons lancé cet Institut, mon s
devions pas seulement nous intéresser à la
ainsi des innovations bio-inspirées pour re
domaines non-médicaux, et notamment l'a
industrielle ou le développement durable.
l'expérience de Molecular Geodesics Inc.,
la fin des années 1990 autour de l'applicatio
3D venues du prototypage rapide – dévelo
l'aéronautique – comme outil pour la fabric
et d'organes artificiels. Cela m'avait permi
industriels et des approches de fabrication
de révolutionner la médecine, et vice versa

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*Nous avons beaucoup à apprendre des éléments
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Transparent Honeycomb Uncropped. Composite cellulaire léger issu du bois de balsa. Ce matériau pourrait trouver des applications dans des situations nécessitant de hautes exigences en termes de rapports rigidité-poids et poids-résistance.

Transparent Honeycomb Uncropped. This lightweight, 3D-printed material may be useful for wind turbine, automotive, and aerospace applications.

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L'auto-assemblage, Les systèmes auto-org

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*Mais aussi la résilience. Une bonne partie de
nouvelles visions de la ville existe déjà dans
l'idéaliser parce que tout n'est pas parfait da*

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Il y a des choses que les êtres humains peuvent
que la nature, notamment la production à fa
prendre le meilleur des deux mondes et de
soit véritablement impactante. Nous utiliso
plutôt que celui de « biomimétisme » parce

principes biologiques pour les appliquer à
matériaux biologiques – par exemple des c
synthétiques, de la production en série ou l

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*Ce que je trouve intéressant dans votre appr
de la recherche à l'action.*

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Il s'agit en effet d'un modèle nouveau. Nous quarante personnes venant de tous les secteurs : l'industrie pharmaceutique ou la biotechnologie, le tatouage. Quand on réunit des profils aussi différents, l'on dit « Mon Dieu, j'ai un problème, comment résoudre ce problème ? ». La réponse peut venir d'un ingénieur qui a travaillé sur un avion ou de quelqu'un qui a fabriqué des matériaux. La connaissance des matériaux spécifiques à un problème est partagée par tous : ou chacun fréquente aussi bien les étudiants que les professeurs, et le travail en commun se fait

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Comment avez-vous développé cet institut ?

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Cela s'est fait de manière organique.

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Selon un processus organique ? C'est très int

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Je décrirais cela comme un processus d'au
principes bio-inspirés : nous auto-assembl
hiérarchique. Tout a convergé vers un conc
biologiques pour mettre au point des innov
pratique, nous avons eu beaucoup de chan

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plus grosse donation de l'histoire d'Harvard offerts par l'homme d'affaires Hansjörg Wyss que les grandes entreprises sont douées pour mais elles n'arrivent pas à innover » et d'un mais ils ne font que publier des articles. » Il s'agit d'un beau milieu du meilleur milieu universitaire pour obtenir des résultats concrets à très court terme. Lorsque des personnes du monde de l'industrie et qu'ils ont travaillé avec les chercheurs de l'institut, nous avons vu que cela était puissante. C'est alors devenu un système qui a commencé à dire : « nous avons besoin de toi », et le chercheur, voyant les résultats, ajoutait : « j'ai besoin de ce secteur », et cela s'est développé comme un domaine des domaines spécifiques vers lesquels nous nous sommes développés. L'organisation générale s'est développée sous la forme de scientifiques, des ingénieurs et des étudiants qui ne peuvent pas à suivre le rythme en termes d'idées. Un bon endroit donc lieu : les meilleures idées gagnent de la place et d'autres s'étiolent ou sont « mises au placard ». Ce n'est pas très éloigné de celui d'une entreprise.

faire, des ressources, mais aussi de fantasti
de fabrication. C'est un modèle encore sing
ailleurs dans le monde universitaire.

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*Si j'en crois la manière dont vous décrivez les
inspirer de la biologie pour progresser en in
différente de ce que nous essayons de faire e*

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Absolument. Nous avons au sein de l'Institut des matériaux dont la couleur artificielle peut colorer des papillons non pas en raison de leurs propriétés mais grâce à des surfaces nano-structurées. Nous étudions des revêtements de surface sur les matériaux qui pourraient être utiles dans le bâtiment – pour des raisons d'efficacité énergétique des matériaux ; vous pourriez imaginer des unités frigorifiques. J'ai récemment travaillé sur un matériau inspiré par des cuticules d'insecte qui a la même efficacité en pesant un huitième de son poids. Il pourrait être utile

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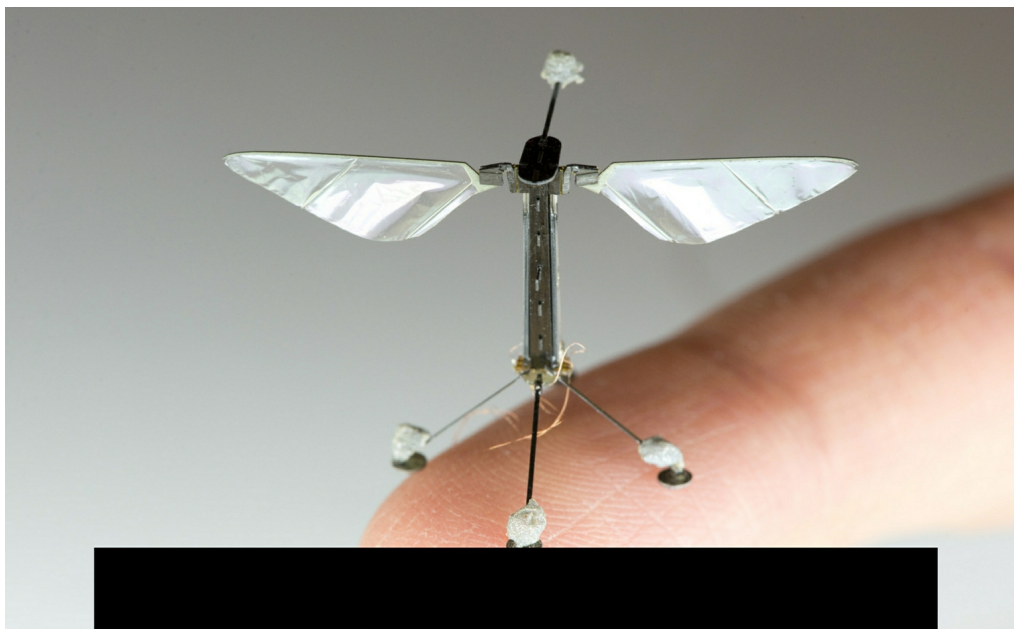
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Ces idées passionnantes sont pourtant peu d'universitaires ou le monde de l'architecture.

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Pas dans le milieu de l'architecture en effet conservateur. Il y a le code du bâtiment, de il nous est difficile voir comment commercer

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donné les fortes contraintes de coût. Le monde ne compte pas une large communauté d'investisseurs. C'est délicat, mais je voyage un peu partout pour que la France cherche depuis longtemps à développer dans le domaine de la biotechnologie. Cela me permet de rencontrer des personnes en France qui cherchent à attirer une communauté d'investisseurs plus dynamique.

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*Notre objectif global est de concevoir des bâtiments qui ont
y a donc de nombreux échos avec les recherches actuelles.
développer ce principe à l'échelle du bâtiment et de la ville.
vision vivante et métabolique. John Fernandez*

de la ville comme métabolisme en cherchan

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Je sais qu'il y a eu des travaux en ce sens ces
pense qu'il est temps de vraiment construire
or la nature et l'être humain construisent di
généralement en partant de matériaux bru
bloc d'acier, un morceau de verre –, alors q
hiérarchique. Des cellules et des unités mo
fonctionnalités, s'auto-organisent et s'asse
émerger des structures d'ordre supérieur
Si l'on réunit différentes communautés de c
des tissus, par exemple un tissu épithélial c
les combine avec du tissu vasculaire qui for
alors on crée un organe, et là encore, de no
s'agit bien d'architecture, mais d'une archi
de mobilité, de communication et de contr

efficaces. Elle fait également preuve d'écob
formidables, où le produit d'un composant
et vice versa. La question est de savoir s'il y
permettant d'utiliser des composants biolo
pense que nous arrivons au point où c'est d

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*De nombreuses idées, concepts ou solutions
n'avaient jamais été matérialisés, ont soudain*

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Exactement. C'est un processus classique. Dans un nouveau domaine, il y a souvent des idées qui s'emportent et les autres sont mises de côté. Mais nous avons un intérêt, même si nous n'étions pas encore à une époque donnée. Ce qui est certain, au moment auquel j'évolue, c'est que le concept de bioéthique a l'ampleur dans de nombreuses disciplines et son développement dans le monde de l'architecture des dernières années. La question est maintenant de nous contenter d'en parler ou finalement p

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for Biologically Inspired En

gineering at Harvard, which

was founded in 2009. Engineering has transfor

med the world over the past fifty years by taking

engineering principles and applying them to

solving problems in many fields, including me

dicine, industry, and architecture. We believe

that we have now uncovered enough about how

nature builds, controls, and manufactures from

the nanoscale up that we are in a position to le

verage biological principles in order to develop new engineering innovations for all types of applications. This is what we call “Biologically Inspired Engineering.” It is not Biomedical Engineering; it’s really something new.

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So, initially you were studying engineering principles in order to understand biology, but now you are doing the reverse?

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N A L D I N G B E R

In medicine, most people know about genes, chemicals, and drugs, but the real revolutiona

ry developments over the last thirty years have come from engineering^{3/4} the artificial heart, pacemakers, artificial cochlear, and drug deli

very systems are a few simple examples. The Institute came about because we were trying to envisage the future of bioengineering at Harvard. Although I trained in medicine and biology, I got into bioengineering because I realized you have to combine disciplines if you want to solve complex problems. I was asked to help build this institute, so we brought together a large group of people from across Harvard University and other institutions in the Greater

Boston-Cambridge area who recognized that the boundaries between living and nonliving systems are literally breaking down. I am a bio

logist, but I publish in physics journals, while computer scientists, chemists, and physicists are publishing in biology journals. *De facto* boundaries are falling apart. Buckminster Ful

ler once said that “Nature has no departments of chemistry, biology, physics, or art” and it’s absolutely true. But we are trained that way, so wherever you are in the world, you have to for

get your discipline and cross boundaries in order to find meaningful solutions.

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This is also the essence of what we are trying to explore with our lab. We are saying that we want to break out beyond these divisions of knowledge. But there is a level of urgency and controversy now.

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We are killing the planet, as we say in America.

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E C H I A M B A R E T T A

We are killing the planet. We have a problem. I think that this has particular significance in our field—75 percent of the population will be living in cities in 2050. As architects, we feel quite involved in this situation and, personally, I feel that this should be a priority for us.

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Though the paradigm of the living may disrupt our vision of of inspiration for our ways of designing. Donald Ingber, the Engineering at Harvard, explains that our knowledge of the developing innovations in engineering that take their inspiration the future of bio-engineering, the Institute was designed and also actors from the world of business, with the aim of mixing principles of the living so as to apply them to problem-solving is more bio-inspiration than biomimicry. For architecture, it builds in a hierarchical fashion, according to the open and

Donald Ingber is a

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D O N A L D I N G B E R

When we started this Institute, it was my feeling that we shouldn't just focus on medicine. Thus, we also develop new bioinspired innovations to address important challenges in non-medical areas, including architecture, energy, manufac

turing, and sustainability. I felt this was critical because I started a company (Molecular Geo

desics Inc.) in the late 1990s focused on ap

plying 3-D printing technology used for rapid prototyping in the automobile and aerospace industries as a tool for the fabrication of medi

cal devices and artificial organs. I realized that

that there are industrial materials and architectural fabrication approaches that could revolutionize medicine, and vice versa.

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We have a lot to learn from the natural elements, the way they generate forms.

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Resilience. A lot of what we are trying to achieve in our new city already exists in the natural world, but of course we cannot romanticize it because everything is not

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There are now certain things that Man can ac

tually do better than nature, like low-cost ma

nufacturing, for example. The key is to take the best of both worlds and combine them in a way that is impactful. We use the term “bioinspired” instead of “biomimicry” because we are ins

pired by taking biological principles and ap

plying them to other areas: fusing biological materials, such as living cells, with synthesized materials, mass fabrication, and microchip ma

nufacturing. The challenges are huge: you have to do it inexpensively, and you have to be able

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*What I find interesting in your approach is
that you want to move quickly from research*

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Yes, this is a new model. We have hired over for

ty staff members who have worked in virtually any industry you can imagine, from pharma

ceuticals to biotech, robotics, or tattoo compa

nies. When you get people like that together in a room and you say, “Oh my God, I have a problem, does anybody have an idea how to make an artificial knee joint with these mate

rial properties?”, the answer might come from someone who worked on airplane engines or someone who worked on golf clubs, because of their knowledge of particular materials unique to those fields. Those people mix with students, fellows, and faculty and work together in a

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It has been organic. I would describe it as a

process of self-organization. We use the bioinspired principles—we self-assemble and build hierarchically. It all came together behind a single concept: let's use biological principles to develop new engineering innovations. In the practical sense, we were very lucky—we were kick-started with the largest single gift in Harvard's history at the time; \$125 million from the businessman Hansjörg Wyss. He said "I know big companies are great at product development but they can't innovate" and "Academics innovate, but all they do is publish papers." So, he wanted to see a startup in the midst of the world's greatest academic environment that would have near-term impact. Once we hired one or two people from industry and they started to work with people in the Institute, we saw the power in this synergy. Then it became a self-organizing system because they would say, "We need this or that exper

tise.” Then another faculty would see how well they were working together and would say “I need someone from this industry as well,” and so it grew. We identified certain areas that we wanted to move toward, but the organiza

tion builds everything from the bottom-up. We have such creative scientists, engineers, and students that we can’t keep up with the ideas. What happens is a form of natural selection: the best ideas gain traction and support, and the others fall away or are “shelved.” The Ins

titute acts almost like a company, because we have knowhow, resources, and incredible pro

totyping and fabrication facilities. It is a very different model; you don’t see this in academia anywhere else in the world.

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From the way you describe it, the idea of using biology in engineering is not very far from trying to do it in architecture.

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at the Institute working on materials that have
artificial color or that can change color like
butterfly wings, and it not due to chemical or
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pigments—it's due to nano-structured surfaces
There are people working on ways to coat sur

faces so that ice won't stick to them. That may
be useful for buildings, because you don't want
to carry weight, but it turns out that it also has
the potential to be incredibly important for
material sustainability and other energy effi

ciencies, for example, you could imagine it in
refrigeration units. Recently, I worked on a ma

terial that's a biodegradable plastic inspired by
insect cuticles; it has the strength of aluminum
but only one eighth of the weight. You could
imagine using it instead of plastic or all kinds

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But these ideas haven't gone out into the

academic or the architectural world yet?

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Not in the architectural world, because in my experience it's a conservative world. You have code restrictions, safety issues, and it's been hard for us to see how to commercialize it given the tough price constraints. Architecture does not have a big venture investor community. I know that France has been trying to address this for a long time in the biotechnology area; starting twenty years ago, I have had meetings with people here in France who wanted to de

velop a more dynamic investment community. I hope this happens in the future.

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Our general objective is to build more sustainable, more resilient buildings. There are resonant elements in what you have said. We want to develop this at the building level, at the neighborhood level, at the city

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*Yes, it's a metabolic view of cities as nature.
John Fernandez at MIT is working on this
idea of studying the city as a metabolism
and trying to define a typological system.*

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But I think it's time to actually build based on biology and nature builds differently to Man. Man usually builds with bulk materials—a hunk of rubber, steel, or glass—but nature builds hier-

archically. Cells and modular units with certain functionalities self-organize and self-assemble to create new higher order structures that take on new functions. If you bring together different communities of cells—we call them tissues

say an epithelial tissue and a connective tissue, and combine them with a vascular tissue that functions like a plumbing system, you create an organ and again, new functions emerge. It real

ly is architecture, but it is a living architecture, with incredibly efficient mobility, movement, communication, and integrated control capa

bilities. It also has amazing economies of scale and economies of metabolism, where the pro

duct of one component is used by its neighbor and vice versa. The question is, are there tan

gibles that could allow us to use real biological components in architecture? I think we are at a time where it's possible.

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We can see that a lot of ideas, concepts or solutions that were considered in the 1970s but never brought to life are now suddenly out in the open.

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Exactly right, you see this all the time. Often in the emergence of a new field there are compe

ting ideas, and then one wins out and the others are thrown away. But there is always value to an idea, even if we were not ready for it at the time.

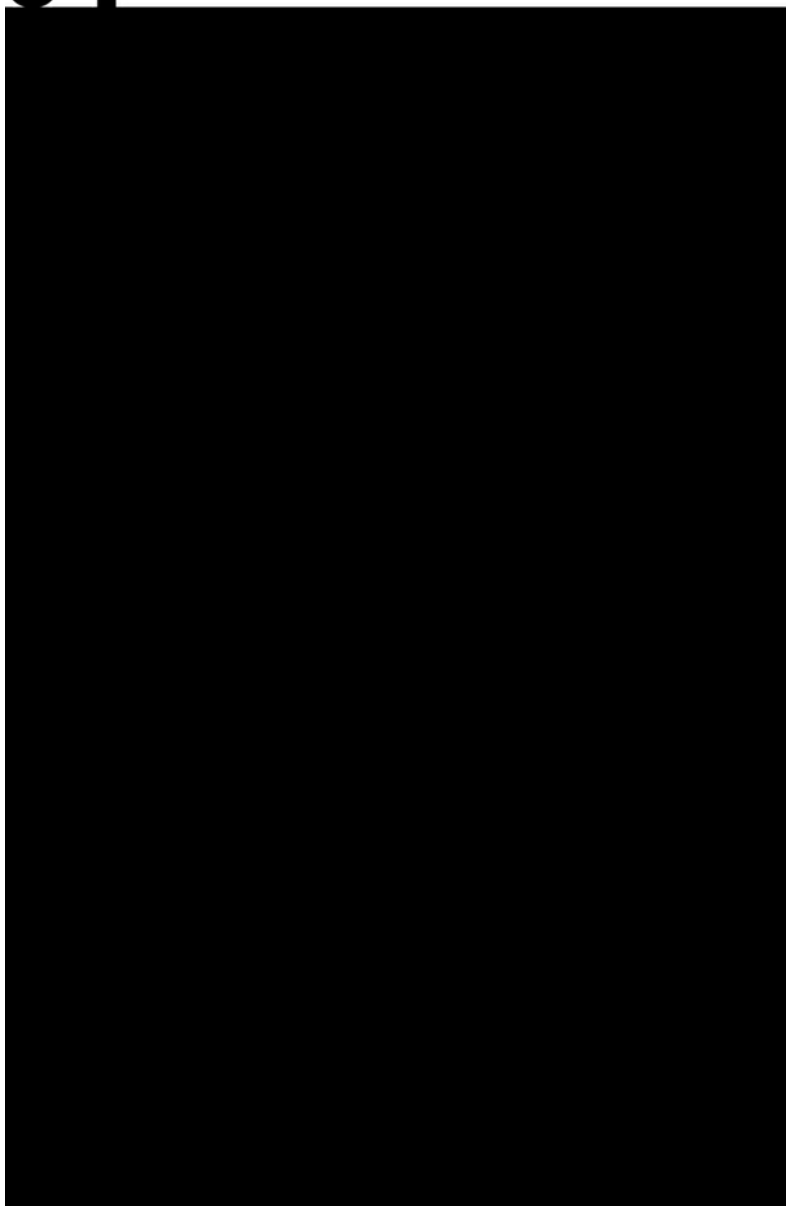
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of the “bioinspired” is taking hold in many dis
ciplines, and I have seen this in architecture as
well over the last five years. The question is, are
we going to talk about it or are we going to do
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L'architecture n'est pas vivante en elle-même, c'est un abus de langage. Ce qui m'intéresse, c'est l'architecture *pour* les vivants, ce qui n'est pas la même chose. Mon propre organisme représente une société de 100 millions de cellules qui fonctionne très bien depuis 94 ans ! l'erreur serait de penser que c'est le cerveau qui gouverne, car le corps humain forme un État

providence non centralisé. Différents organes spécialisés, la peau, le foie ou l'estomac sont en contact avec le cerveau sans être dirigés par lui. Les cellules qui les composent ont une très grande autonomie, et la clef du fonctionnement de l'organisme réside dans la communication entre elles. Je cherche un modèle général, qu'incarne bien l'organisme vivant,

mais ce n'est pas l'architecture elle

même qui est vivante. Comme les cellules, ce sont les individus qui m'intéressent, et la façon dont ils communiquent avec la réalité qui les entoure. Quand la communication est défectueuse, c'est le cancer.

Notre société est en train de changer, pas nous les personnes en elles-mêmes, mais leurs liens avec l'extérieur. La communication devient directe. Il est théoriquement possible de contacter n'importe qui dans le monde. Mais cela soulève de vrais problèmes. La communication totale est impossible, quelle que soit la technologie. La véritable communication, c'est entre des individus. Peu importe de quelle façon.

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L'Architecture pour les vivants

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CITIES IN THE
MANY PEOPLE



NECESSARY
DEFENSE

c'est que mes cellules communiquent. Pers
imaginer échanger avec sept milliards d'h
dialogue se limite en réalité à une quinzain

delà c'est un dialogue de sourds. Ce n'est p
groupes exécutifs sont rares à excéder la d
des Dix à Venise par exemple.

C'est un fait, la communication a changé av
permet pas littéralement de parler avec tou
moins de l'impératif de la proximité. La loc
dialogue » – les dix, quinze personnes avec
ce soit depuis la Chine ou les États-Unis, no
géographique. Deuxième grand changem
envers les réseaux. Lorsque j'ai élaboré le
mobile », dans les années 1950, je pensais c
réseaux, qu'ils soient téléphoniques, élect
n'en sommes plus dépendants ! Nos téléph
par des batteries qui étaient inimaginables
certainement le changement le plus impor
lorsqu'elles seront totalement alimentées p
deviendrons véritablement indépendants

Mais la technologie moderne n'est pas toujours la solution. L'organisation digitale change le comportement. Si les gens travaillent aujourd'hui sur ordinateur, il n'est pas forcément de les concentrer dans un gratte-ciel de 56 étages, avec des embouteillages et une surcharge disproportionnée de circulation, des thromboses en quelque sorte. Le travail peut être fait à domicile, si celui-ci était plus adapté. L'industrie est également automatisée, un contremaître peut diriger leur usine depuis chez eux.

Il nous faut en revanche nous interroger sur ce que la technologie n'apporte pas : un service personnalisé, un contact nécessairement humain. Il nous reste à décider de ce qui est à une seule personne : l'électricien, le plombier, le jardinier. Ce sont des modèles de métiers personnels et locaux. Un secteur d'emploi se ferme, un autre s'ouvre. La technologie va profondément changer la proximité urbaine. Quand j'étais étudiant, on nous apprenait l'importance du quartier du marché, car c'était le lieu où les gens se rencontraient. Ce n'est plus, c'est du passé. Je ne vois jamais de rencontres dans les supermarchés, d'autant que les gens font de plus en plus de courses par internet. La rencontre ne passe plus par la place centrale, le marché, mais par le télép

servant à se donner rendez-vous. La proximité
nécessaire, la technologie moderne permet
de se diluer. C'est complètement nouveau
encore inventé comment l'appliquer, mais

L'Architecture pour les vivants

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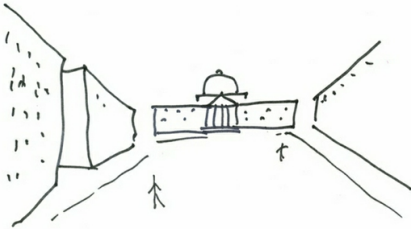
On parle tout le temps de Grand Paris, ce qui est une erreur de l'après-guerre. Se rendre à Paris prend sûrement plus de temps que d'aller à Londres, considérée comme une ville dont le métro ne manque plus que la carte orange européenne. Le métro a changé et nous assistons à l'émergence d'un nouveau réseau qui existe depuis longtemps des TGV avec des liaisons directes d'un métro. Si je décide que la proximité compte, alors Londres, Paris, Bruxelles, Amsterdam, Milan, Rome forment une seule et même ville. C'est un scénario qui a 50-60 ans et qui devient aujourd'hui réalité.

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L'homme est la seule espèce animale qui ait adapté son environnement, toutes les autres s'y adaptent. Les problèmes peuvent être résolus via notre créativité. L'architecture peut ainsi être improvisée : nous sommes indessinables mais improvisables. Quand on parle de « Ville spatiale », il y a très longtemps mais les interlocuteurs étaient interloqués par l'absurde. Ils restaient à construire et étaient vouées à échouer.

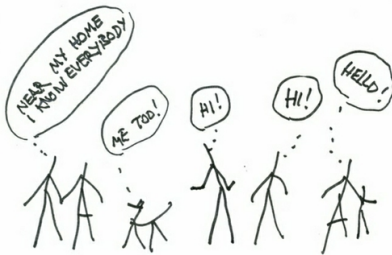
Une petite anecdote : la grande maquette qu'on a
par le Centre Pompidou a été endommagée et
proposé de la réparer mais le musée a refusé.
plus été la même ». Mais c'est précisément
l'« Architecture mobile », casser la maquette et
reconstruire autrement. Nous ne sommes pas
il y a un problème de mentalité. L'improvisation
fondamentale de l'adaptation. Tous les animaux
aussi, sans même le réaliser, notamment au moment
des mouvements de mains... autant de gestes.
L'« Architecture mobile » repose sur l'idée que
passant peut faire de l'architecture, de la même
le monde arrange son intérieur en déplaçant les
L'architecture est une activité populaire, voyez
Tous les villages ont été construits sans architectes.
maçons dont on reconnaît souvent le style. Je
une vingtaine d'années de proposer une solution
l'architecture que j'appelle le « meuble + »
compte la surface du meuble mais également
pour l'utiliser. C'est une unité de vie, une belle
pièce déplaçable, un nouveau style pavillonnaire
sorte. J'ai débuté cette réflexion en pensant



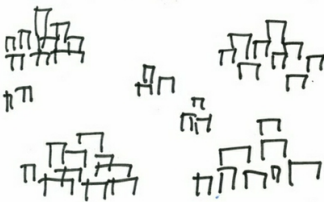
AND WE DON'T MEET AT THE FORUM



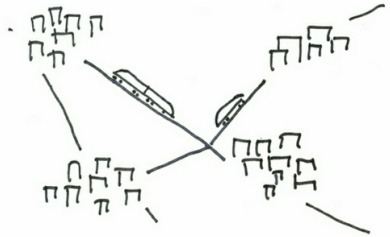
BUT IN SMALL CAFES
AND THROUGH CELLULAR PHONES



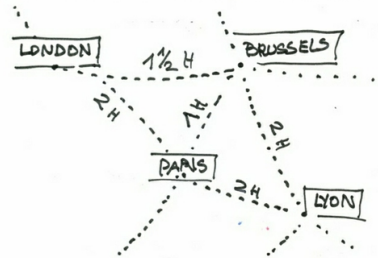
URBAN VILLAGE REEMERGED
AS A REALITY



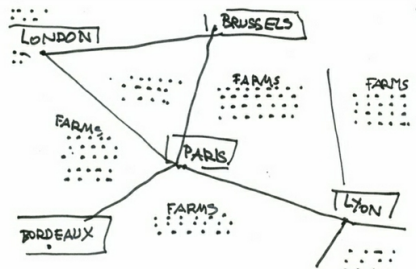
THE NEW BIG CITY
IS NOT ANymore A CITY



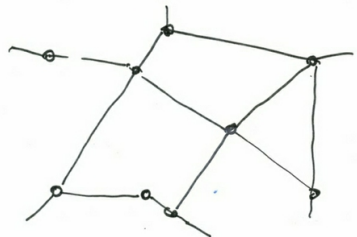
BUT A NET OF CITIES
LINKED THROUGH FAST TRAINS



IS PARIS A SUBURB OF LONDON,
OR LONDON THAT OF PARIS OR BRUSSELS



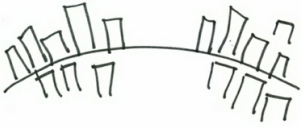
"METROPOLE EUROPE" CONTAINS ALSO
FARMING, NOT ONLY SERVICES AND INDUSTRY



THUS THE NEW CITY IS EXISTING CITIES
WITHOUT BUILDING NEW ONES

L'Architecture pour les vivants

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ANYWAY, WE BUILD TOO MUCH
EARTH IS OVERBUILT



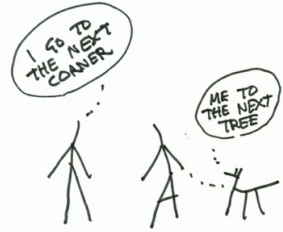
MOST FUNCTIONS DON'T NEED BUILDINGS:
OFFICE WORK YOU CAN DO AT HOME



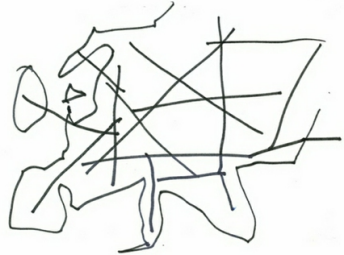
ASSEMBLIES CAN TAKE PLACE ANYWHERE:
YOU DON'T NEED BIG HALLS



MUSEUM CAN BE ON THE STREET



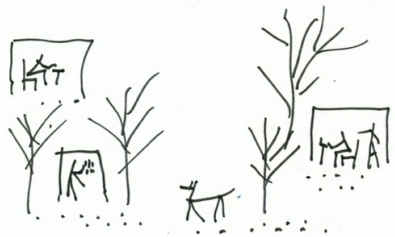
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IS AT VILLAGE-SCALE



AND FAST TRAINS CAN GO
AT CONTINENT SCALE



BIG BUILDINGS ARE ONLY STATUS-SYMBOLS



THEY CAN BE SUBSTITUTED EASILY

un asile de migrants à l'époque de Romulus comme l'ensemble des villes américaines. et improvisaient quelque chose. Le bidonville recyclage des déchets de la ville. J'ai beaucoup en Amérique Latine et en Inde, mais il faudrait le « bidonville des civilisations riches ». Toutes européennes jettent des volumes habitables matière première pour l'architecture, qui est historiquement née du déchet de l'agriculture inexploitable servait à confectionner des toits gênantes dans les champs à ériger des murs actuels sont simplement différents.

La question devient alors : « Quel rôle pour si tout le monde peut faire de l'architecture faut comprendre que l'existence d'un art populaire n'empêche pas celle des experts. Tout le monde des photos avec son téléphone, mais les photographes et artistes continuent de proposer des clichés autre qualité. Le conseil artistique aura toujours de valeur, il faut que les deux possibilités coexistent ».

faire décorer son intérieur par un professionnel et choisir de l'agencer soi-même.

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Il est également absurde de penser les villes. Les surfaces doivent à nouveau présenter une forme. L'urbanisme est une maladie généralisée, un syndrome est nécessaire, car si la ville se détend, la nature a aucune raison que l'agriculture soit repoussée. Il faut devenir une forme d'occupation urbaine, c'est-à-dire gagner en autonomie. Mes cellules produisent les autres. Lors des conférences de l'Habitat 67, on a dit qu'« habitat » signifie « le toit et la nourriture », ce qui a été accepté. L'analogie avec un organisme est le domaine de l'habitat que de celui de l'architecture. Une « *carrying capacity* » de la surface de la terre à nourrir 3 milliards d'individus, mais la surface nécessaire est bien plus grande. Si nous excluons que nous ne le faisons pas pour la survie mais pour d'une chose abstraite appelée « profit ». Il ne s'agit simplement de critiquer le capitalisme mais de remettre en question notre concept d'économie. Si nos cellules augmentent, nous le faisons, ce serait le cancer assuré. L'

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L'Architecture pour les vivants

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Mon travail a été très influencé par le conte de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. J'y ai observé. Dans une ville où il n'y avait pas d'eau, pas de nourriture, la population se débrouillait avec des papiers journaux pour se protéger du froid. J'avais 20 ans, et depuis je sais que c'est possible de briser l'asphalte pour cultiver la terre pour la nourriture, comme Saint-Petersbourg. Notre folie est de croire que tout doit être planifié pour construire le monde en se basant sur des modèles qui fonctionnent, mais très mal. Lorsque j'étais en exil à la mer pour maintenir son cours. C'est absurde. Notre magnifique technologie nous libère de certains réseaux, de l'électricité, de la proximité, mais le captage de l'eau et la culture du sol sont fondamentaux. N'oublions pas que Rome est tombée parce que les barbares avaient coupé l'accès à l'eau. Aujourd'hui encore, le captage est centralisé, ce qui est une source de vulnérabilité. La véritable autonomie est le puits et le lopin de terre, aussi petit soit-il. Je ne suis pas les sociologues ou les prophètes, je serais

incapable de prédire la manière dont notre
va évoluer, mais je reste persuadé qu'elle
inventée par la population. Aux USA, la mét
vis-à-vis de la qualité des produits alimenta
les gens à cultiver de petits jardins minusc
production de nourriture est intégrable au
de la ville, le logement individuel peut être
avec des espaces dédiés. Les révolutions, c
ça commence par les riches. Une mentalité
construit, lentement et difficilement. Ce n'
décret présidentiel qui résoudra le problè
est d'ouvrir le champ et de laisser inventer
pas de métabolisme ou d'organismes, mai
d'une question de régulation. Comment les
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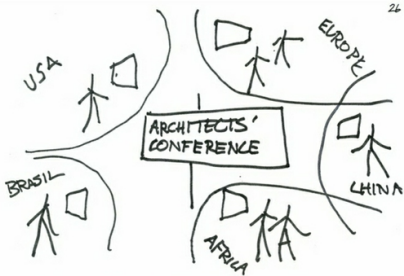
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Il n'y a pas de survie sans vie, pas de vie sans domaines séparés, mais un ensemble. Tout ne peut être envisagé isolément, tout est lié mais l'écologie politique est un détournement. On pratique le même abus avec la cybernétique. Wiener après la Seconde Guerre mondiale dit aujourd'hui. C'est très lié à l'écologie. V n'y a pas de commande isolée, sauf en création à une époque où nous créons des monstres d

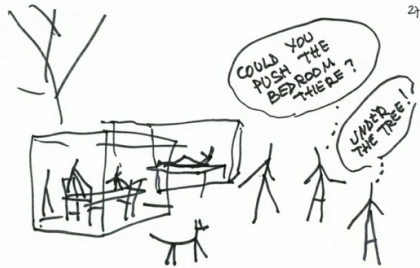
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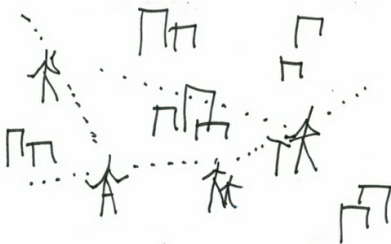
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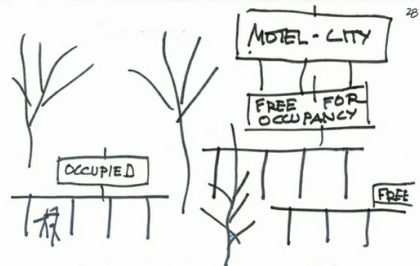
NETWORKS OF COMMON INTEREST
ARE GLOBAL BEYOND GEOGRAPHY



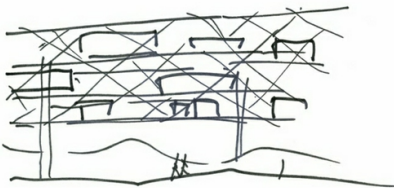
"HOME" SHELTERS CAN BE MOVABLE



PERHAPS A "VIRTUAL CITY" CAN BE
INTERWOVEN WITH THE BUILT ONES



AND, PERHAPS, INDIVIDUAL SHELTERS
CAN BE REPLACED THROUGH ORGANIZATION



LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE,
THE "VILLE SPATIALE"



WE LIKE TO IMAGINE THE IMPROBABLE
AND ARE SURPRISED WHEN IT BECOMES REAL

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A historical figure of prospective architecture, Yona Friedn

of communication embodied by the living organism, a source of life for living beings rather than a living entity in itself. He looks back at the field of communications, that allow us to do away with the constraints of space, also looks back at the liberation of the individual with respect to the technological obstacle when he was imagining the concept of “mobile architecture.” The world has evolved to the point where it has transformed Europe into a global metropolis becoming one single and unique city, materialized by mobile phones, batteries, and the cellphone of utopias of the 1960s. Friedman’s “mobile architecture,” that anyone can adapt, while not denying the historical struggles against urban density, advocating that a dilution of space is the place—returning alimentary independence to urban space and to the population itself, following on from his pioneering work on mobile architecture.

Architecture

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misnomer. What I am interested in is architecture

for the living, which isn't the same thing.

My own body is a society of one hundred mil

lion cells that has been working very well for

the past ninety-four years! It would be a mistake to assume that the brain rules over it because the human body forms a non-centralized welfare state. Various specialized organs—the skin, the liver, the stomach—are in contact with the brain without being run by it. The cells that make up the organs are highly autonomous and the key to the smooth operation of the body lies in the communication between them. I am looking for a general model, which the living body fully em

bodies, but it isn't architecture itself that is alive. Just as with cells, I am interested in individuals and in the way they communicate with the rea

lity around them. Cancer occurs as a result of

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people themselves, but their links to the outside world. Communication is increasingly direct for instance. It is theoretically possible to contact anyone in the world. But that raises important issues as total communication is impossible, whatever the technology. True communication about the involvement of individuals. Whatever the means, what matters is that my cells commu

nicate with one another. Nobody could imagine interacting with seven billion human beings. Meaningful dialogue is in fact restricted to a do

zen or so people; anything more would be a dialogue of the deaf. It is no coincidence that executive groups seldom have more than a dozen

members, such as Venice's Council of Ten. It is a fact: technology has changed communi

cation. It doesn't allow us to literally speak with everyone but at least it frees us from the proxi

mity imperative. The location of the "critical discussion group"—the ten to fifteen people I speak with—has changed. We can talk without being constrained by geography, whether we are in China or the United States. The second major shift has to do with the liberation of indivi

duals from networks. When I came up with the concept of "mobile architecture" in the 1950s, I thought humans were limited by networks, be they phone networks or electric grids. But today we aren't dependent on them anymore! Our mo

bile phones have batteries that were inconcei

vable only fifty years ago. This is certainly the most dramatic change in modern life and when they will eventually be fully powered by solar

energy, we will have truly become independent
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But modern technology is not always properly
harnessed. Digital organization changes urban
behavior. As people now work on computers,
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there is no need to be piled up in fifty-six-story skyscrapers. This only results in congestion and an overburdened traffic system, thromboses so to speak. Such work could very well be carried out at home, should our homes be made more suitable. Industrial activities are also automated and a production foreman or an engineer could be running a plant from home.

We have to stop and consider what we do not get from technology however—personalized service, which is human-centric by defini

tion. We have yet to truly discover one-person

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are models of trades that are strongly per

son-centric and human-centric. When one em

ployment sector dwindles, another opens up.

That will significantly change urban proximity.

When I was a student, we were taught about the

importance of the marketplace because this

was where people would meet. That is a thing

of the past. I never see encounters in supermar

kets, all the more so given that people are in

creasingly shopping online. People don't meet

in the large main square, the marketplace, but

on the phone, which is the medium used to set

appointments. Proximity isn't necessary any

more as modern technology now allows for the

dilution of cities. This situation is entirely new and we haven't found how to apply it yet, but it is clearly something that can be done.

People are constantly talking about the "Grand Paris" project, which is one of the biggest mis

takes of the post-war period. It certainly takes longer to go from Paris to Pantin during the rush hour than to Brussels. Europe must be viewed as a city that uses high-speed rail as a mass transit system. Politically, the only thing mis

sing now is a European commuter pass. Urban proximity has changed and we are witnessing the emergence of the urban continent. In Japan, high-frequency high-speed train service has existed for a long time. Should I decide that proximity is a three-hour journey, then London, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan, Marseille, Lyon, and Bordeaux form one single city. This is a scenario I had contemplated fifty or sixty years ago and that is now becoming a reality thanks to high-speed rail, batteries, and mobile
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Humans are the only animal species that has changed its environment; all other species adapt to it. Many problems can be solved thanks to our adaptability. Architecture could be improvised for instance: my structures can

not be drawn but they can be improvised. When I suggested the concept of the “Spatial city,” a

long time ago now, the people I spoke to were

taken aback by the lack of facades. They were still to be built and were set to change constantly. When the large-scale model of the spatial city that the Centre Pompidou had acquired got damaged over the years, I offered to repair it but the museum refused because “it wouldn’t have been the same.” But that is precisely what “Mobile architecture” is about—destroying the scale model every month to rebuild it in some other way. We are not accustomed to the idea. There is a mindset problem. Improvisation is a key adaptive strategy however. All animals use it, and we do too, though we don’t realize it, through mimicry and hand movements for ins

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“Mobile architecture” is based on the idea that any random person can do architecture, just as we all do interior design when we arrange our furniture. Architecture is a vernacular, or even folk, activity. Villages were built without

architects by masons whose styles can often be recognized. These past twenty years or so,

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for architecture that I call “meuble +” (literally “furniture plus”), which takes into account the surface area of the piece of furniture as well as the surface needed to use it. It is a living unit, a box, a small moveable room, a new suburban style so to speak. I started this thinking with

migrants as cities have always been built by migration. Rome was a haven for migrants at the time of Romulus and Remus, and all American cities started the same way. People would come and improvise something. Slums are simply recycled city waste. I have worked in Latin American and India a lot but the “slums of affluent civilizations” should also be considered. All European cities throw away potential living spaces, waste material that could be a real resource for architecture. As a matter of fact, architecture historically derives from agricultural waste products; vegetation with no nutritional value was used as thatching and inconvenient stones from the fields to erect walls. Today’s waste is simply different. The question then becomes: “What role is there for architects if everyone can do architecture?” It must be understood that the existence of a

vernacular art practice doesn't prevent that of experts. Everyone takes photos with their phones but photographers and artists continue to offer shots of a completely different quality. Artistic advice will always remain as valuable as it is today. Two possibilities must co-exist: having a professional work on your interior decoration or doing it yourself.

Architecture for the Livings

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It is also absurd to think of cities as being deserts of concrete. Spaces must once again present a diversified fabric. Urban condensation is a systemic disease, a syndrome of obesity. Dispersion is necessary because if the city loosens up, nature will slip back in. There is no reason for agriculture to be pushed outside of cities. It can become a form of urban occupation, which would enable cities to gain greater autonomy. The cells of my body also provide nutrition for others. During the UN-Habitat conferences, I suggested that “habitat” be defined as “food and shelter,” because these cannot be separated; this was accepted. The analogy with a biological organism is therefore more a matter of habitat than architecture. France has the “carrying capacity” to feed
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billion human beings but the actual acreage required to do so is much higher. We make poor use of the land because we aren't driven by survival but an abstract thing called "profit." The idea isn't simply to criticize capi

talism but to overhaul our entire conception of the economy. Should our cells act like we do, cancer would be inevitable. Cells, on the other hand, know their limits.

My work was heavily influenced by the specific context of my youth, during World War II. I have seen and experienced survival. In a city where there was neither water nor electricity, neither windows nor food, people resourcefully fended for themselves, improvised, wrapped themsel

ves in newspapers to keep warm, or melt snow for drinking water. I was twenty years old and since then I know that this is possible. I also saw

people smash up the asphalt in order to culti

vate land in cities with no food supply such as Saint Petersburg. We have a mental block. It is sheer folly to believe that everything must be both planned and profitable. This amounts to building the world by basing ourselves on mis

takes. Obviously, it works, but very poorly. Whe

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Brazil to keep prices high. What nonsense.

Our wonderful technology frees us from cer

tain networks, from electricity, from proximity, but water supplies and the cultivation of food crops remain vital. Let us not forget Rome fell because the Barbarians had cut its access to water. To this day, water supply is centralized and is therefore a source of vulnerability. Ge

nuine self-reliance comes from having a well and a plot of land, however small. I am not pre

tending to be a sociologist or a prophet and

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which our spatiality will change, though I ne

vertheless remain convinced that it has to be

invented by the community.

In the United States, the distrust of the quality of food products is driving people to cultivate tiny gardens. Food production can be easily integrated in urban systems and individual housing can provide dedicated spaces in their design. Revolutions sometimes start among the affluent. Mindsets are in fact constructed, slowly and with great difficulty. No presidential decree will solve the problem. The idea is to open up the field and to let people innovate. It's not a matter of metabolism or biological organism but rather a matter of regulation, of how cells

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There is no survival without life, or life wit

hout survival. These aren't separate fields but
a whole. Everything should be an ecology, no

thing can be viewed in isolation, everything is
connected. I knew René Dumont, but political
ecology is a misappropriation of the idea of
ecology. We abused cybernetics in the same
way. Cybernetics as they were initiated by Nor

bert Wiener after World War II are a far cry from
its contemporary discourse and are closely re

lated to ecology. You cannot separate things.
There is no isolated command, except by crea

ting a monster. We live in an age when we are
engaging in the mass production of monsters. I
am in favor of demonsterization.



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Revital Cohen & Tuur Van Balen, courtesy of the artists
Life support, Respiratory Dog, 2008, C-type print on
aluminium 84 x 60 cm

p.146 à p.157 *Amazonian Forest* ©Eduardo Kohn, 2017

p.162 à p.169 ©Ariane Michel, courtesy of the artist

p.162 *Notes For Neighborhood*, 2014, performance, production :
Hors Pistes / Centre Pompidou, photo ©Hervé Véronèse

p.165 *Les Yeux ronds*, 2006, installation vidéo in situ, 6min 30

p.166 *Les Hommes*, 2006, long-métrage, 95 min, DV kinescopé en
35 mm, son Dolby Stéréo

p.169 *The Screening*, 2007, vidéo performative Vidéo HD, stéréo,

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p.174 à p.186 ©Michel Blazy, Adagp Courtesy of the artist et Art

p. 176 *Nouvelles amibes domestiques 3*, 2017, plâtre, coton, colle à papier peint, colorant alimentaire, eau, 92,5 x 93 cm, collection privée, Marseille, photo © Claire Dorn

p.179 Vue d'installation *Ex Croissance 1*, Espace Rurart, Rouillé, 2010 Photo © Arnaud Stinès

p.180 *Le Lâcher d'escargots*, 2015, Escargots, moquette noire, dimensions variables, collection Frac Île-de-France, Paris, Photo © Martin Agyroglo

p.183 *Peinture cellulaire rechargeable*, 2015 (détail), verre, eau, colorants alimentaires, sel, vinaigre blanc, plâtre, métal, 121 x 82 cm, Collection MONA - Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmanie, Photo © Claire Dorn

p.184 Vue d'installation *Circuit fermé*, Frac Île-de-France, Paris 2012, photo © Martin Agyroglo

p.186 *Nouvelles amibes domestiques* 6, 2017, plâtre, coton, colle à papier peint, colorant alimentaire, eau, 127 x 82 cm, Collection privée, Marseille, photo © Claire Dorn

p.192 © Hiroshi Sugimoto, courtesy of the artist, *Gorilla*, 1994, Photographie argentique, 38,7 x 58,8 cm

p.195 haut © Wolfgang Laib, *Ohne Zeit - ohne Ort - ohne Körper*, 2007 Reisberge, 3 Berge Blütenstaub von Haselnuss, Grösse variabel, hier 470 x 410 cm (185.04 x 161.42 in) (WL 1033) © Wolfgang Laib Photo: Helge Kirchberger, Courtesy Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, London • Paris • Salzburg

p.195 bas © Armand Morin, courtesy of the artist, *Panorama 14*, 2013-2017, Matériaux divers, 260 x 260 x 300 cm

p. 198-199 © Dulce Pinzón, courtesy K-Echo *Nostalgia*, *Historias del Paraíso*, série, 2011 Impression, 76,2 x 101,6 cm Photo © Galéria Patricia Conde (Mexico) et

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p.200 © Mathieu Mercier, Adagp, Paris 2017, courtesy of the artist et le Crédac. *Sans titre (couple d'axolotls)*, 2012, vitrine,

éclairage néon, terre, aquarium, eau, couple d'axolotls, 219,5
x 180 x 330 cm, Vue de l'exposition *Sublimations*, Centre
d'art contemporain d'Ivry – le Crédac, Photo © André
Morin / le Crédac

p.203 © Richard Barnes, courtesy of the artist *Man With Buffalo*,

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p.204 © Giuseppe Penone, courtesy of the artist and Marian
Goodman Gallery *Spine d'Acacia, Occhio Sinistro*, 2003
Oil, silk, Acacia thorns, 9 panels, 118 1/16 x 141 11/16 in. /
300 x 360 cm (Inv.#12213)

p.210 à p.221 © Olafur Eliasson, courtesy of the artist
p.210 *Your disappearing garden*, 2011, Obsidian, Dimensions
variable, Installation view at the Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev,
2011, Photographer: Studio Olafur Eliasson, courtesy of
the artist; neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar

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p.212 à p.215 With Günther Vogt, *The mediated motion*, 2001
Water, wood, compressed soil, fog machine, metal,
foil, Lemna minor (duckweed), and Lentinula edodes
(shiitake mushrooms) Dimensions variable Installation
view at Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria, 2001 Photographer:
Markus Tretter Courtesy of NR Courtesy of the artist;
neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New
York © 2001 Olafur Eliasson and Günther Vogt

p.216 à p.218 *Riverbed*, 2014 Water, blue basalt, basalt,
lava, stone, wood, steel, foil, hose, pumps, cooling unit
Installation view at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art,
Humlebæk, Denmark, 2014 Photographer: Anders Sune
Berg Courtesy of the artist; neugerriemschneider, Berlin;
Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York

p.219 à p.221 *Your disappearing garden*, 2011 Obsidian
Dimensions variable Installation view at Tanya Bonakdar
Gallery, New York, 2012 Photographer: Jean Vong;
neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New
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p.222 à p.225 © Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni, courtesy of

p.222 *Sans Titre (La Vallée Von Uexküll*, 5120 x 2700), Video 5K,

36 min, 2009-2014 p.225 2045-*The Death of Ray Kurzweil*,
The Unmanned saison 1 episode 1. Video HD, 26 min, 2014

p.229 © Loris Gréaud, Gréaudstudio, Adagp, 2017

The Snork, a concert for creatures, court métrage, 2012

p.232-233 © Hans Hartung, Adagp T1986-E16- Fondation
Hartung Bergman, Paris, 2017

p.240 à p.247 © Loris Gréaud, Gréaudstudio, Adagp, 2017

p.240 *The Geppetto Pavilion*, 2011. Photos © Philippe Servent /

p.242-243 Fond et bas à droite, *The Unplayed Notes Museum*, 2011. Photo © Gréaudstudio / Minsk Studio.

p.243 Haut à droite, *Gun Forest Tree Bubble*, 2008. Photo © Palazzo Grassi / ORCH orsenigo_chemollo.

p.244-245 Fond, *Does an angle between two walls have a happy ending?*, 2013. Photos © Palazzo Grassi / ORCH orsenigo_

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p.244 Bas à gauche, *Eye of the Duck*, 2005. Photo © Laurent Leca

p.246-247 Fond, *Frequency of an Image*, 2012. Photo © Julie Dubos /

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p.247 Bas à droite, *One thousand ways to enter* (Bats Edit), 2012. Photo © Julie Dubos / Minsk Studio.

p.248, p.251, p.259 © Adam Brown, courtesy of the artist

The Great Work of the Metal Lover, 2012, glass alchemical bioreactor, gas manifold and gas tank filled with hydrogen and carbon dioxide, made in collaboration with Kazem Kashedi. View of the alchemical installation at *Wetware: Art, Agency, Animation* at the Beall Center for Art+ Technology, University of California, Irvine,

p. 256, p. 260 © Gilberto Esparza,

p. 256 *Plantas autofotosintéticas*, vue de l'installation à l'Espacio Fundación Telefónica, Lima, 2014 p. 260 *mrn (maraña)*, *Parasitos Urbanos*, 2006 Projet réalisé à travers le Programme d'Appui à la Production et à la Recherche en Art et Médias 2006 du Centre Multimédia du Centre National des Arts,

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p. 262 © Anna Dimitriu, courtesy of the artist *Engineered antibody*, 2016, in collaboration with Xiang Li, Liu Lab for Synthetic Evolution, University of California Irvine. Materials: Polymer clay, crystalized amino acids, Coomassie Blue dye, embroidered cotton calico, and antique crochet

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Timur Si Qin, courtesy the artist and Société Berlin

p. 270 Still from video *Visit Mirrorscape*, 2016

p. 273 *TM1517 (Paranthropus Robustus): Dressed in Space*, in «Basis of Attraction» at Bonner Kunstverein, 2013

p. 275 *Is it True there is no such thing as Truth?* in «Made in Germany III» at Sprengel Museum Hannover, 2017

p. 276 *A Reflected Landscape*, at Berlin Biennial, 2016

p. 280 *Premier Machinic Funerary: Part I* at Taipei Biennial «The

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p.281 Installation view *Visit Mirrorscape* at Art Basel Statements

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p.285 Still from *Visit Mirrorscape* 2016

p.294, 298 haut © Josh Simpson, *Megaplanet*

p.297, 298 bas © *millimètre*, *The AtomScreen*, installation à

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T R E A M [a r c h i t e c t u r e]

C R É D I T S

l'exposition Life in Picoseconds au Cafe Art Science
(Cambridge) organisée par Studiomillimetre, Charles
Reilly et Daniel Faust. Photo © John Kennard

p.304 à p.308 © Haru Ji & Graham Wakefield

p.304 *Archipelago*, Systems and Subversions. IDEA Space, Edith
Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center. Colorado Springs,
USA. Oct 28 to Nov 5, 2013.

p.307 (fois 2) *Endless Current*, Life is very Beautiful. Yeulmaru
Exhibition Hall, Yeosu, Korea. 2014-02-18 – 2014-04-06

p.308 haut *Time of Doubles/Flux* 2011, Type:wall. Seoul Olympic
Museum of Art (SOMA), Korea. 2011-03-31 – 2011-05-29

p.308 bas *Inhabitat*, Interactive Media Theater. MOXI Museum
Exploration of Innovation, Santa Barbara, USA 2017-08-10
to 2018-01-08 Sand-sculpture augmented reality, head

mounted virtual reality, large-scale projection.

p.310-311 *Archipelago*, Power Station of Creativity Project, Seoul
Sangsangryok Baljeonso. City Hall, Seoul, Korea. Oct
1 - Oct 21 2014.

NB : More information on the Artificial Nature project
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Since 2007, artificial nature installations have been included in forty exhibits across nine countries, including festivals such as SIGGRAPH (Yokohama, Hong Kong), Microwave (Hong Kong), and Digital Art Festival (Taipei), conferences such as ISEA (Singapore) and EvoWorkshops (Tübingen), venues including La Gaîté Lyrique (Paris), ZKM (Karlsruhe),

Central Academy of Fine Arts (Beijing), MOXI and the AlloSphere (Santa Barbara), and City Hall (Seoul), as well as recognition such as selection in the 2015 VIDA Art and Artificial Life International Awards and the 2017 Kaleidoscope

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p.322, 328 haut © Nikola Basic, Photo © Stipe Surac,

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Lacaton et Vassal, Photo © Philippe Ruault

p.327 © Peter Zumthor, Photo © Auguste Fischer

p.328 bas © Nikola Basic

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p.337, 341 haut © Gershon Dublon

p.338 © Nan Zhao. Photo © Aguilera Williams

p.338 bas © Nan Zhao

p.341 haut © Gershon Dublon

p.341 bas © Gershon Dublon and Don Derek Haddad

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p.357 © MIT Senseable City Lab (et Ericsson)

p.362 photo © Nigel Burgher

p.365 Photo © Manolo Mylonas

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Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F.H., Kienast, F., 2004: W

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p.461 à p.464 © Woodoo

p.468 à p.475 © Wyss Institute, Harvard University

p.480, 493 © Yona Friedman, *Cité virtuelles - It is not only the city*

cape that changes, 2016

Earth is overbuilt, 2016. De la série de slide show *Cité*

virtuelles - It is not only the city-cape that changes

p.482 à p.489 *Cité virtuelles - It is not only the city-cape that changes*,

2016, slide show de 15 images, encre sur papier, 21 x 29,7

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Les Paradoxes du vivant

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**Philippe Chiambaretta et l'équipe Stream
remercient chaleureusement tous les contributeurs
ainsi que tous ceux qui ont collaboré à la réussite de
cet ouvrage et particulièrement :**

***Philippe Chiambaretta and the Stream team would
like to warmly thank all the contributors as well
as those who collaborated on the success of this***

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